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SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 APRIL 1987

Iran-Iraq War

Iran liberated "vast" parts of Iranian territory, including the 'Baba Hadi' border outpost, in a new offensive codenamed "Karbala'-9," IRNA announced. Iranian forces defeated seven "heavy" Iraqi counteroffensives in the "Karbala'-9" operational region, the agency pointed out, adding that Iranian troops are "holding the upper hand."

In the "Karbala'-8" area, Iran "smashed" a heavy Iraqi counterattack and downed four more aircraft, including an Su-22 whose pilot was captured, IRNA reported. Iranian aircraft made further bombing raids on Iraqi positions in the region on 10 April, Tehran radio announced citing a military communique. More than 8,300 Iraqis have been killed or wounded since the beginning of the "Karbala'-8" operation, the radio added

According to INA, however, Iraq confronted an Iranian assault on 9 April, killing or wounding no less that 7,000 Iranians. The agency claimed Iranian forces began a "disorderly, confused retreat." In a statement carried by INA, the Iraqi military spokesman said Iraq shot down an Iranian Phantom aircraft, a Cobra helicopter, and two drones. The spokesman denied Iranian claims of shooting down several Iraqi aircraft and two helicopters, the agency noted. Regarding Iraq's claim it had repulsed an attack on Al-'Amiq port, an Iranian military spokesman denied any such an attack was made, Tehran radio reported.

Egypt

Election Results — Final election results gave three parties representation in the People's Assembly, Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr announced in a statement carried by Cairo radio. The National Democratic Party came away with 308 seats, the Socialist Labor Party with 56, and the Neo-Wafd with 36. Badr said 39 individual candidates won seats, and voting will be repeated in the remaining 9 constituencies on 13 April.

Before announcing the results, Badr noted that there were "extremely complicated challenges regarding security" during the actual election process because of intense competition, mounting tension, and "the prevalence of a fanatical spirit." According to the minister, "the important incidents were confined to some chaotic acts and attacks in limited areas."

Ethiopian Visitor — Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam arrived for a visit on 9 April, MENA reported.

Lebanon

Israeli Raid — Israeli helicopters attacked "terrorist" targets south of Sidon on 9 April, hitting three buildings on the outskirts of the 'Ayn al-Hulwa refugee camp, IDF radio announced. Although the radio said all the helicopters returned to their base safely, Beirut radio and Voice of Lebanon radio cited unconfirmed reports that one craft was shot down. Israeli aircraft also made several sorties over Beirut and the mountain on 10 April, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Hostages — Diplomatic reports from Beirut cited by a Kuwaiti newspaper indicate the "maturity" of an initiative to gain the release of four American University of Beirut professors reportedly being held by a Hizballah group led by Al-Haj Husayn Khalil. The paper said expectations are based on the 9 April departure of Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah for talks in Damascus which will reportedly concentrate on working out a plan to release the four captives.

"The Oppressed on Earth" organization has threatened to execute a Jewish hostage abducted in Beirut, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. In a statement delivered to a foreign news agency in Beirut, the group said it would carry out the threat if Israel continues its actions against what it called the Oppressed in Southern Lebanon, the radio continued.

Camps, Security Situation — Ambulances evacuated 41 wounded persons from the Burj al-Barajinah camp under the supervision of Syrian observers and Amal and PNSF representatives, Beirut Voice of National Resistance radio announced. In the southern suburb, tension rose as intermittent clashes became more severe and a cease-fire declared by the security committee failed to stop the fighting, Beirut radio reported.

Palestinian Talks

Yasir 'Arafat and PFLP Secretary General George Habash will cochair the preparatory meeting before the PNC session, according to press reports cited by the the Qatari news agency QNA. Fatah's Khalil al-Wazir said the agreement was reached during a working session with the PFLP delegation, the agency noted. The PLO office in Algiers had earlier denied reports that the preparatory meeting had been postponed, Algiers radio reported.

The PFLP-GC secretary general announced that the front would not attend the Algiers meeting, Paris Radio Monte Carlo disclosed.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denounced the notion of an international conference and its champion, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in a speech "unprecedented in its harshness," Jerusalem television reported. Shamir called the idea "national suicide" and "insane," the television added. He called on Peres to drop the the idea of a conference, which might "wreak a catastrophe on Israel," Jerusalem radio noted. Peres responded to Shamir's remarks, branding them "destructive," IDF radio said.

The foreign minister returned from his meetings with Soviet representatives on 9 April, calling his first contacts with the Soviets "important and direct," IDF radio noted. According to sources close to Peres cited by *The Jerusalem Post*, the USSR has moved closer to the Israeli view of an international conference as a context for direct negotiations between the parties. The paper said Soviet officials showed an "unprecedented readiness" to discuss Kremlin attitudes toward Jewish emigration during the meetings. Peres also noted the Soviet side spoke directly about the need to improve relations with Israel, the paper disclosed.

Chadian Conflict

Libyan aircraft bombed Zouar, Erdi, and Ouadi Doum on 8 April, Ndjamena radio reported.

Western Sahara

Saharan fighters killed 157 Moroccan soldiers, including 2 officers, in a large-scale operation, Algiers radio announced. The Saharan troops occupied part of the defense wall and pursued Moroccan soldiers 15 km into the Moroccan side, the radio noted, adding that a Moroccan counteroffensive was defeated.

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Arab League 'Ready To Allow' Egypt's Return

NC082122 Paris AFP in English 2107 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis, April 8 (AFP) — Arab League members are ready to allow Egypt back into the organization, following its expulsion in the wake of the Camp David peace agreement with Israel, League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said here Wednesday.

Mr. Klibi, speaking at a press conference following the close of the League's ministerial meeting here, called on Cairo and other Arab nations to work together towards this end.

Only when Egypt returned to the Arab League would "security in the Arab nation be total and real," he commented.

Egypt was expelled at an Arab League summit meeting in April 1979, and the League's headquarters was transferred from Cairo to Tunis.

Klibi Lists Arab League Initiatives, Stances

LD090023 Kuwait KUNA in English 1455 GMT 8 Apr 87

[By Jassim Matar]

[Text] Tunis, April 8 (KUNA) — Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi said here Wednesday that the Arab League Council has decided unanimously and without reservation to call on Iran to respond to the peace calls and end its war with Iraq by peaceful means in occordance with the Security Council Resolution 582.

In a press conference held here this morning following the conclusion of the Arab League Ministerial Council meeting on Monday night, Klibi said the Security Council Resolution 582 stipulated a ceasefire, unconditional and comprehensive withdrawal of troops to international borders, exchange of prisoners of war and non-interference in the internal affairs of the other country.

He pointed out that the Arab League Council has decided to call on the Security Council to bear its responsibility in accordance with the UN Charter to restore peace between the warring countries, noting that the council has further decided to entrust the seven-member committee to establish contacts with the Security Council members and urge them to shoulder their responsibilities.

The ministerial seven-member committee assigned to follow the Iraq-Iran war decided to launch an extensive move to include the permanent Security Council members and the rest of the influential members.

Klibi noted that Saudi Arabia is exerting all efforts to convene the long-awaited Arab summit adding that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has established contact with Arab leaders in this respect.

He emphasized that the positive initiatives of the mediation committees between Syria and Jordan and Iraq and Syria will pave the way for holding the Arab summit as soon as possible.

Klibi hoped the Palestine National Council PNC scheduled to convene on April 20 will come out with positive results to unify Palestinian rank.

On the Palestinian question, the council reaffirmed its support to the Palestinian people and efforts to attain their national rights under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and deplored the continuation of the camps war in Lebanon.

Klibi pointed out that the council decided to pursue the work of the Arab ministerial committee and entrusted a ministerial delegation including the current and previous chairmen of the council to visit Damascus to follow up latest developments and cooperate with Syrian authorities to secure the entry of supplies to the camps and also seek a solution to end the camps war.

On the international peace conference on the Middle East, he said the council showed interest in the idea of the international conference as well as the European stand.

The council said the European stand constitutes a positive development and hoped it would lead to recognizing the Palestinian rights under the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people as well as recognizing the Arab rights and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories.

On the Lebanese problem he said that the conferees discussed the situation in Lebanon and expressed solidarity with the Lebanese people. He added the conferees also expressed readiness through the Arab League to support the current efforts to secure the Lebanese national reconciliation. Commenting on Afro-Arab cooperation he said the council renewed solidarity with the African peoples in their fight for freedom.

'Arafat, Habash To Cochair Algiers Meeting

JN100938 Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Apr (QNA) — Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has said PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash will cochair an expanded meeting attended by a number of Fatah Central Committee and PFLP Political Bureau members in Algiers on Saturday.

In a statement published by the newspaper *Al-Ittihad* here today, Abu Jihad said the agreement to hold this meeting was reached at a working session held with the PFLP delegation on 8 April. He also said that during the meetings with the Palestinian factions that signed the Tunis agreement, the major approaches and broad lines of the political stands and organizational issues to be fully discussed before the PNC convenes were outlined. The Palestinian official asserted that preliminary agreements on these matters have progressed toward a final accord. He pointed out that views were exchanged on these issues.

PNC Speaker on Algiers Session, Jordan, Egypt

JN091010 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Apr 87 p 5

[Interview with PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih by Ahmad Nafi' in Amman; date not given]

[Text] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has said the PLO is ready to accept peace if the Palestinian people's rights are secured and the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on Palestine are implemented. He affirmed that the organization is determined to enter every field of struggle, as in the modern world it is understood that struggle cannot be confined to military means. War is destructive and does not produce results. But this does not mean giving in to the enemies of the Palestinian question.

The Palestinian statesman and religious scholar, who once served as Awqaf minister in Jordan, made this statement to *Al-Ahram* in an interview at PNC Headquarters in Amman. The interview dealt with topics that will be discussed at the 18th PNC session, which is scheduled for Algiers on 20 April.

Among the important topics to be discussed will be the situation in the occupied territory, the struggle march, the camps war in Lebanon, the PLO position on current moves to convene the international conference for peace in the Middle East, and the PLO's position on the Amman accord, which was concluded between Jordan and the organization on 11 February 1985. That agreement still stands despite the suspension of political coordination between the two parties last year.

We began the interview by asking Shaykh al-Sa'ih's opinion on current reports that a trend appeared at the recent meetings between Fatah and other Palestinian groups in Libya calling for the abrogation of the Amman agreement and the reconsideration of the PLO's relations with Egypt. Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: Like other reports published recently, this report is inaccurate and untrue. Some statements were attributed to me personally. However, I did not deny them, as I considered them inconsequential.

The things you stated were published indeed, but the decisive position on this subject will be known during the dialogue that will be held in Algiers on 10 April in the presence of all the Palestinian groups. We hope this meeting will be attended by the PFLP, which did not participate in the Tripoli sessions. The dialogue will determine whether the groups present will agree to set preconditions for convening the PNC, or if the matter will be left to the Council so that everyone proposes what he wants within the legitimate institutions. The Council, which is the highest legislative authority, would then decide by majority vote what it deems commensurate with higher Palestinian interests. Therefore, I do not believe that we can say the Amman agreement has been cancelled, or that the relationship with Egypt has been reconsidered as long as the PNC has not passed anything on these topics.

[Nafi'] Does this mean the PNC will not convene in the absence of complete agreement?

[Al-Sa'ih] The Council's meeting has been decided. It will meet regardless of the results of the dialogue. In fact, invitations have already been sent out. As far as we know, the groups that did not attend the 17th PNC session in Amman will attend the 18th session. The only exception is the PFLP headed by George Habash. Reports indicate that the PFLP is insisting on the Tripoli agreement, which contains certain conditions, as a basis for its participation.

I cannot state categorically that every group will attend the PNC session, as that matter will be decided at the dialogue session to which everyone has been invited. It is in light of the dialogue's results that the preparations will be made for convening the PNC. We hope all groups will attend and appreciate the challenges and plots surrounding the Palestinian question and revolution at the hands of enemies who do not want the Council to convene. These people do not want the Council to meet so the revolution will not have a voice and the Palestinian rifle will not have support.

Therefore, I sincerely hope all our brothers will recognize the predicament in which the Palestinian cause now finds itself, attend promptly, and raise any point on their minds during the Council session as the agenda will be open. We will open our hearts to any point raised and we will put it to the Council, which is its own master. What the Council decides will be applied by all its institutions.

[Nafi'] Some Palestinian groups have adopted certain specific stands on the political settlement. What is your opinion?

[Al-Sa'ih] Who says there is a political settlement? There are only suggestions and proposals. Is anyone convinced the United States and Israel truly want peace? Personally, I am not convinced. I believe we must point out to the world the party that stands as an obstacle to peace. It is the United States and Israel, not us.

We are ready to accept peace on the condition that our rights are secured and the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions are implemented.

This is why we want an international conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties concerned, including the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative.

It has already been announced that the Fes resolutions mean peace and that the resolutions of the Islamic summit in Kuwait mean the same thing. They do not mean capitulation. There is a big difference between peace and capitulation. Peace means securing everyone's rights and taking into consideration all UN resolutions on the Palestine question. If these resolutions are taken into consideration, including the establishment of the Palestinian state and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, then we will not object to a just peace that secures rights and removes all complications and unjustices. If the purpose of peace is to make us surrender to what the United States and Israel want, then we strongly reject that despite the consequences.

[Nafi'] We have noticed a trend toward cancelling the Amman agreement, which the Arab states consider the instrument for implementing the Arab peace plan.

[Al-sa'ih] I believe Jordan has adopted a special stand concerning political coordination with the PLO. However, the relationship between the two is not confined to that; it is more comprehensive. Our relations with Jordan remain distinguished and strong, whether the agreement is cancelled or not. The political stand adopted by Jordan says that the delegation that would be formed to attend the international conference would be a joint Jordanian-PLO delegation. Therefore, if we freeze this political march, it would mean that the subject of the delegation would be a problem resulting from the suspension of the coordination. This is why some people have raised the idea of cancelling the agreement as long as Jordan has frozen the political coordination.

I personally cannot say what the Council will do. However, I am very intent on keeping the relationship between Jordan and the organization strong, distinguished, and unaffected by any stand. We may differ with Jordan, but our differences must not separate us and we must not cancel our bilateral relations. Therefore, if some people believe the accord should be abrogated, there are others who feel we must not be hasty and emotional. We must consider the consequences of the cancellation of the agreement. We must also consider the alternative. Does this mean severing relations with Jordan? This is out of the question and cannot be correct. The two peoples are in complete harmony with each other. They felt this special relationship between them long before the existence of Israel.

Therefore, I hope the results of the dialogue and Council meetings will reflect this sense, which everyone feels, namely, the need to pursue higher Arab and Palestinian interests. We must pursue what fulfills Palestinian and Arab interests. Our objective must not be solely cosmetic and sloganeering.

[Nafi'] Attempts have been made to restore the suspended coordination between Jordan and the PLO; however, these attempts have been wrecked on the rock of the PLO'S nonrecognition of Security Council Resolution 242.

[Al-Sa'ih] In my opinion, the PLO and PNC have neither rejected nor accepted Resolution 242, as it contains certain gains, including the provision on Israel's withdrawal and nonrecognition of the forcible seizure of lands. However, we feel that the resolution is not an adequate basis for solving the Palestine question. It does not speak about the rights of the Palestinian people. It only makes general reference to what it terms refugees, to the extent that even Jews are demanding their rights as refugees.

Therefore, we adhere to a stand that is difficult to change; namely, that Resolution 242 alone is not a correct basis for solving the Palestinian question. This position is in line with the Islamic summit's assertion that Resolution 242 alone is inadequate. If all the other General Assembly and Security Council resolutions are added to this one, then they will form a basis for solving the Palestinian question.

When King Husayn went to the United Nations and delivered his speech, he frankly asked: Why do we stop with Resolution 242 alone; why do we not mention UN Resolutions 181 and 194 on the partition of Palestine?

Personally, I believe the PLO's stand is not tactical but strategic, as it depends the continued existence of the revolution. This is what the PLO's enemies say. Yigal Alon once told Cyrus Vance, U.S. secretary of state in the Carter administration, that it is impossible for the PLO to accept Resolution 242 because it would then cease to exist as a revolution and a cause. By recognizing the resolution, the PLO would be recognizing Israel's occupation of all Palestinian territory as well as land belonging to other Arab states.

We cannot lose a card on which we are bargaining and struggling such as the card of the Palestinian question and the Palestinians' right to self-determination and an independent state.

I believe that if Resolution 242 guarantees for us the right to self-determination and establishment of a state, then that would be acceptable. We are not against the resolution per se, but its substance. If the substance is changed, then we will accept it. If we are told that influential parties like the USSR and the United States guarantee our right to self-determintion and the establishment of a state, then we will accept 242.

I do not believe Jordan has an initiative which shows that the United States will give us any right or pursue real peace. Therefore, our stand will not change unless the U.S. and Israeli stands change as well. Our stand will continue in line with our rights and also with what King Husayn announced at the United Nations. It is a stand supported by the Islamic summit resolution. King Husayn and President Mubarak were among the Arab and Islamic kings and presidents who attended that conference. None of them expressed any reservations regarding that resolution.

[Nafi'] Jordan and Egypt are working for a real, effective international conference. If these efforts succeed and the conference is held on the basis of Resolution 242, what would the PLO's position be?

[Al-Sa'ih] I do not want to anticipate events. If we are invited, we would say we accept 242 if it guarantees the right to self-determination and the establishment of a state. Other than that, we would say no. We will not acknowledge Israel's occupation of the whole of Palestine. Of course, the PNC has the final say but if I am asked my personal opinion, this is it.

[Nafi'] Some people believe the right to self-determination might come up during the negotiations. Therefore, prior rejection of the conference on the basis of 242 would be extremely dangerous.

[Al-Sa'ih] What is most dangerous is the loss of our cause, which we care about. If we reach a starting point from which we will not lose our cause or compromise our rights, then there will be no objection to moving ahead. Perhaps, the PNC is the right venue for determining this stand. I must not get ahead of events and express any opinion that might differ from that of the Council. Therefore, I leave matters to the outcome of the meetings of the Council, which I pray will succeed in serving the higher interests of the Palestinian question, which does not concern individuals but a nation and its future.

[Nafi'] When the unity of the groups is achieved — and this is a lasting objective — adopting decisions becomes very difficult because of the groups' different trends and considerations.

[Al-Sa'ih] If we want to lead our cause on the correct path, we must not restrict ourselves to the opinion and trend of any specific group. All opinions must be discussed and what is agreed by the majority must prevail, whether a specific group agrees with it or not.

What we must uphold is the conviction of the majority of PNC members. If one specific group insists on its opinion, the Palestinian march becomes incorrect. What we will have then is not a Palestinian leadership, but a factional one. We consider the PLO as the leader of the Palestine question and the Palestinian revolution. It is above all groups and trends. What is agreed by the majority in the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee follows. If the groups have different opinions, let them discuss those opinions in their own councils, which deal with their personal affairs and conduct. The cause must be subject to the opinion of the majority in the PNC and the Executive Committee.

[Nafi'] Do you believe all groups will participate in the PNC session?

[Al-Sa'ih] Invitations have been sent to everyone. What I am saying now is that I am asking all of my Palestinian brothers to appreciate the true trends of certain Arabs in particular, and also of our open enemies such as the United States and Israel whose sole concern is to obstruct the PNC session so that the Palestinian cause will remain hanging in the air and the Palestinian people will remain confused as to what they must do and what course to follow.

Therefore, I call on everyone to appreciate our true conditions and to act in the interests of our cause and the Palestinian revolution which has always faced challenges and has proven despite all plots that it is stronger than ever, that it exercises the right of armed and unarmed struggle, and that it does not exclude any form of struggle because struggle must not be confined to war. Wars are only destructive and do not produce results.

But this does not mean that we will submit to what our enemies want. We want to exercise our right to armed struggle and encourage resistance in the occupied territory. At the same time, however, we want to continue with our political struggle and contacts with our friends, headed by Egypt, which has weight, respect, and influence. We must never deny that.

Issues Between Fatah, DFLP 'Pinpointed'

JN092029 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The preparatory meeting for convening a PNC session, which was scheduled to begin in Algiers tomorrow, Friday, has been postponed for several days for practical reasons. Informed Palestinian sources said representatives of many Palestinian factions, unions, and professional organizations could not get to Algiers in time owing to the difficulty in getting on flights between Algiers and other Arab capitals. DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah said the expanded Palestinian dialogue will begin next Sunday [as heard], as expected, and that all delegations to the dialogue will arrive in Algiers by the day after tomorrow.

Meanwhile bilateral meetings among Palestinian factions continue. Sources close to the PLO have affirmed that PFLP and Fatah delegations under George Habash and Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] have met three times so far and have pinpointed the points of agreement and disagreement on political and organizational issues related to the PLO's activities.

Within the framework of these contacts, PFLP Secretary General George Habash will meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in his capacity as Fatah leader. This meeting will be the first of its kind since the 1983 rupture over contacts between the PLO leadership and Cairo and Amman.

It is worthy noting that most Palestinian revolution factions are currently participating in preparatory contacts in Algiers to convene the PNC on 20 April. Many factions expressed their determination to participate in the PNC meeting, while others still have reservations.

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril announced today that the Front will not go to Algiers to participate in the 18th PNC session, as it refuses to deal with what he called questions of deviation and liquidation through the existing relationship with the Camp David and Amman agreements.

'No Truth' To Reports of Meeting's Postponement

LD092117 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Residents of the camps called on Palestinian leaders yesterday to make all possible efforts to get preparations under way for the successful convening and reunifying of the PNC in Algiers. There were some reports in the media today that the meeting on comprehensive dialogue, due to be held in Algiers tomorrow, had been postponed. Our colleague Lahcene Chayech contacted 'Umar al-Qadiri, the official responsible for information at the PLO's Algiers office, and asked him to clarify this point:

[Begin recording] [Al-Qadiri] The truth is that meetings and contacts between the Palestinian leaders have been continuing in Algiers for some time now, to prepare for the convening of the PNC at the scheduled date and place — 20 April at 1000. Frankness, as well as concern for Palestinian national unity, is being displayed by all Palestinian groups attending these sessions. There is no truth to reports carried by some news agencies that talks between the leaders of the Palestinian detachments had been suspended: Meetings and contacts will continue on 10 April to prepare and put the finishing touches on work to convene the PNC in Algiers.

[Chayech] Thus, the signs for the convening of the PNC, and most of tomorrow's all-day meeting, are there?

[Al-Qadiri] As I have already told you, bilateral contacts, as well as contacts on more than one level, are continuing. The brother leaders of the Palestinian detachments that intend to take part in these talks are arriving in Algiers. As you may know, the delegations of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement-Fatah, the PFLP, DFLP, the Palestinian Liberation Front with its two wings, one led by Brother 'Abu 'Abbas and one headed by Brother Tal'at Yakub, the Revolutionary Council-Fatah, and all other Palestinian groups planing to attend are here in Algiers. Their meetings are continuing at the bilateral and other levels. All leaders of the Palestinian detachments will also meet tomorrow. There is no truth to reports about the postponement, or the suspension of these talks. The fact is that news agencies should be careful: They should investigate reports before carrying them, and they should not seek information from the street, and from here and there, in order to spread rumors or harm one of the parties. [end recording]

Palestinians in Jordan Uphold Amman-PLO Accord

JN081554 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 7 Apr 87 p 3

[Text] Amman — A committee formed by a number of Palestinian figures in Jordan has started touring the country's Palestinian refugee camps, where they are contacting Palestinian organizations and personalities to elicit their support against moves to abrogate the Amman agreement between Jordan and the PLO.

A meeting was held at the Palestine Liberation Army command in Amman attended by Brigadier General Na'im al-Khatib, the army's commander in Jordan; his senior assistants; Brig Gen Yasin Sa'adah, Fatah Revolutionary Council member; and 'Umar al-Khatib, known as Abu Shamikh, Fatah Movement representative in the Jordanian arena [title as published]. The conferees reviewed the recent Tripoli agreement among five Palestinian organizations and decided to form the above committee and send two memorandums: the first to Yasir 'Arafat and the second to the PNC speaker.

The memorandum addressed to 'Arafat said there are unchanging Palestinian principles that cannot be bypassed or abandoned, including the Palestinians' rejection of preconditions for convening the PNC and their opposition to current attempts to annul the 17th PNC session held in Amman and its results. They demanded adherence to the letter and spirit of the Amman agreement and stressed Palestinian-Jordanian unity.

The memorandum bore the signatures of Yasin Sa'adah, 'Umar al-Khatib, and Na'im al-Khatib.

INTRA-GULF AFFAIRS

First GCC Joint Naval Maneuvers Conclude 9 Apr

LD092133 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Al Zahran, 9 Apr (SPA) — The first six-sided joint maneuvers ("Al-Tadamun"), in which naval units from the GCC countries participated, ended this evening. The exercises were hosted by the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, which were represented in the maneuvers by the staff of the King 'Abd al-'Aziz Naval Base in Al-Shariqah.

The maneuvers, which began on Saturday, were part of the cooperation among GCC states. It is considered one of the most important maneuvers launched by GCC leaders, as naval units took part for the first time.

The maneuvers seek to improve the combat capability of naval units, increase cooperation and acquaintances among the navies of GCC states, exchange expertise, and train ships' officers and men to work as one when necessary. Rapid communications and instruction on a prompt exchange of intelligence data between GCC navies were also among the goals.

In addition, the maneuvers were designed to promote coordination with air forces in sending advance warning information and training on tactical leadership in accordance with modern methods of naval warfare.

PDRY

YSP's Al-Bid Meets Iraqi Communist Party Leader

EA091317 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, has met Comrade 'Aziz Muhammad, secretary general of the Iraqi Communist Party. During the meeting, relations between the YSP and the Iraqi Communist Party were discussed, along with the Palestinian situation. The participants stressed that there must be a quickening of the process of restoring the unity of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. This will contribute to the restoration of Arab solidarity in finding a just and permanent solution to the Palestinian issue and the Middle East problem.

UAE

Turkish Transportation Minister Holds Talks

TA060547 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
2000 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Transportation Minister Veysel Atasoy is continuing his talks in the UAE, where he is on an official visit. He was received today by Deputy Prime Minister Hamdan ibn Muhammad al Nuhayyan. They discussed developments between the two countries over the past few years. In response to Prime Minister Ozal's invitation, the UAE deputy prime minister said he wants to travel to Turkey soon. He also invited Prime Minister Ozal to the UAE.

During Atasoy's 3-day stay, the two countries will sign an addenda to the bilateral air transportation accord, which was signed in Ankara last October.

Air Transport Agreement Signed

TA081232 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1000 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Turkey and the UAE have signed an air transport agreement. The accord was signed by Transportation Minister Veysel Atasoy, who is on an official visit, and UAE Transportation Minister Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah. [title as heard] According to the agreement, airliners from Turkey and the UAE will provide daily service. The current two flights a week between the two countries will be increased beginning July. The agreement also covers technical issues related to civil aviation.

During his stay in Abu Dhabi, Atasoy met with UAE President Zayid Ibn Sultan Shaykh Al Nuhayyan in addition to the UAE transportation and defense ministers, and toured a number of installations. Atasoy left Abu Dhabi for Turkey today.

Shaykh Zayid Holds Talks With Malian President

JN091122 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Apr (WAKH) — Official talks between His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, and Malian President Moussa Traore began in Abu Dhabi this morning. The talks were attended on the UAE side by His Highness Shaykh Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla, Al-Qaywayn ruler; Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, director of the UAE president's office; Dr Man'i Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources; Hamad al-Madfa', minister of health; Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid; Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and Shaykh Hazza' ibn Zayid. Mali was represented by Ba Ag Mohamed, secretary general of the party and official in charge of organizational affairs; Modibo Keita, minister of foreign affairs; and Nicolo Traore, director of the Malian president's office.

Interior Minister Badr Announces Election Results

NC100405 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2256 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Statement by Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr on the results of the People's Assembly elections; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Sisters and Brothers: It gives me great pleasure to announce the results of the People's Assembly elections that took place on Monday, 6 April, in accordance with the provisions and amendments of Law 73 of 1956 and Law 38 of 1972.

Before giving the details of the figures and the meaning of the results, it is perhaps our duty to refer to a number of circumstances and factors that have ascribed a special significance and prominence to these particular elections, as compared to the others Egypt has held since beginning its march of democracy in modern history. The arena of political action has seen the first elections to combine the system of the proportional list with individual representation. Therefore, these elections combined a comparison between the principles and programs presented by the various parties with a competition among the individual candidates with their intrinsic constituents [muqawwimat dhatiyah] and social ties.

This political arena has also witnessed the first People's Assembly elections to receive this amount of interest and positive attention, both from the candidates and the voters. The number of candidates nominated on the party lists reached 1,655, and this was in addition to 1,937 individual candidates. The number of voters who actually cast their votes totalled 7,227,467.

From the moment preparations were made to hold these elections until the moment their results were announced, the state's institutions and organs adhered to providing an equal chance to all the parties and candidates.

According to recorded statements, the opposition parties held 477 meetings, debates, and conferences during the campaign. This figure does not include the 267 meetings, debates, and conferences the individual candidates held. The various parties were also given the opportunity to announce their policies and programs in the national and party papers and over the radio and television.

During the actual election process there were extremely complicated challenges regarding security as a result of the intensity of the competition, mounting tension, and the prevalance of a fanatical spirit in some areas. In the meantime, some elements attempted to goad the masses into feeling angry and blatantly called for defying law and order. However, as is usual with cases of defiance, the people of Egypt resorted to their cultural role, stood by their firm values, and understood the dimensions of the danger threatening their unity and safety. They refused to respond to the emotional calls of those advocating incitement. They placed Egypt's security and stability above political conflicts and party differences.

Thus, in accordance with their plans and as a result of their vigilant efforts, the police and security forces managed to maintain security and stability during the campaign. The important incidents were confined to some chaotic acts and attacks in limited areas, which the security bodies controlled and contained.

Some subsidiary election committees were the scenes of violations, but these were investigated by members of the judiciary and heads of the main election committees. As a result, a limited number of ballot boxes were discounted. The public prosecutor has been instructed to interrogate those suspected of involvement in these violations. The violations occurred in only 10 out of a total of 21,235 subsidiary committees, that is, in only 0.04 percent. This percentage cannot possibly affect the overall soundness of the elections.

Brothers and sisters, the results of the elections for the People's Assembly held on 6 April are as follows:

1. Party lists. The total number of persons registered on the electoral lists and entitled to exercise their political rights is 14,324,162 in the republic as a whole. The total number of votes cast in these elections is 7,227,467. Of these, 6,824,908 were valid votes, and 402,559 were invalid. For a party to be represented in the People's Assembly, it must obtain at least 8 percent of the total number of valid votes cast in the republic, as a whole — that is, 545,992 votes.

The total number of valid votes obtained by the parties is as follows:

NDP:	4,751,758.
Socialist Labor Party:	1,163,525.
New Wafd Party:	746,024.
NPUG:	150,570.
Al-Ummah Party:	13,031.

The parties entitled to be represented in the People's Assembly are the NDP with 308 seats; the Socialist Labor Party with 56 seats; and the New Wafd Party with 36 seats.

2. Individual candidates: Thirty-nine candidates have won seats, and the voting will be repeated in nine constituencies on Monday 13 April.

Brothers and sisters, the results of the People's Assembly elections reflect the will of the masses and truly show that they have chosen stability, which is the chief mainstay of achievement and production. The masses have confirmed that they trust in the NDP to lead their march toward further freedom and security, and to pursue its plans to overcome our current problems and achieve our ambitions for the future. However, some people feel that democracy is real only if it favors them, and accept the people's will only if it conforms to their whims and interests. But if the results turn out to be contrary to what they had imagined, or tried to imagine, they refuse to face the facts or assess policies and positions, and simply repeat what they said beforehand, casting doubt on the soundness of the elections and alleging that they were rigged.

The facts are clear to me. These elections were held in full view of the Egyptian masses. They were reported by local and world media. The results of the elections, and the increase in the percentage of votes obtained by the opposition, are unmistakable proof that those responsible for the election process performed at the highest levels of loyalty, honesty, and dedication in discharging this national duty. I say in all sincerity, and bear witness before history, that in their impartiality, honesty, and fairness these elections are a shining beacon on the road of democratic progress in our homeland.

Our Lord, in Thee do we trust, and to Thee do we turn in repentance: To Thee is our final goal. [Koranic verse] May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Individual Seat Results Given

NC092103 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA) — MENA has received the election results for individual seats in the People's Assembly covering the republic's 48 constituencies: The NDP has won 30 seats; the Socialist Labor Party (the alliance among Socialist Labor, the Social Liberals, and the Muslim Brotherhood), 4 seats; and the independent candidates, 5 seats. Voting in the remaining nine constituencies will be repeated on Monday.

MENA has also learned that the final results of the elections for the partisan lists are being prepared now and are expected to be announced in the coming hours. This slight delay is due to the fact that the distribution of seats obtained by voting for party lists must go through several calculations.

Ethiopian President Mengistu Continues Visit

Mubarak Hosts Banquet

NC100505 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Apr (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak hosted a banquet at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this evening, in honor of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and the delegation accompanying him.

The banquet was attended by Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi; Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Mamduh Salim, assistant to the president; Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minsiter of defense and war production; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation. Also present at the banquet were Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, governor of Cairo; and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs and head of the delegation of honor accompanying the Ethiopian president.

At the beginning of the banquet, President Husni Mubarak delivered an address in which he called on all the parties concerned with the Middle East dispute to refrain from doing anything that might jeopardize the chances of holding a peace conference. He added: We are trying to arrive at a unified Arab position, the cornerstone of which is the joint Jordanian-Palestinian concept of peace and its requirements. Foremost among these is the principle of land for peace. President Mubarak expressed his support for the efforts currently being made in the UN Security Council to find a formula for ending the Gulf War and halting the bloodshed. He also said foreign intervention in the affairs of African states must be rejected. The text of President Mubarak's speech is as follows:

Your Excellency, my brother and dear friend, Mengistu Haile Mariam, honored guests of Egypt:

I am pleased to welcome you to your second home on behalf of Egypt's noble African people, who are proud of belonging to the same family as you, and who take pride in standing with you in the same trench, struggling to achieve the same objectives.

It is God's divine will that the sons of Egypt and Ethiopia should have been closely bound since the dawn of history. They have been united by the great civilization of the Nile valley, which has created a unique and striking similarity in the interests, characteristics, objectives, and aspirations of the two peoples. The events and experience of history solidified the relations between the two peoples, as evidenced by the strong links that have existed between them since the Pharaonic era. The ancient Egyptians and your great ancestors were aware of the ineluctable need to strengthen the contacts and exchanges between the two peoples in all fields. The Red Sea was their channel for transporting goods, exchanging services, and strengthening the ties of blood and intermarriage between individuals. In these ways they proved their historical awareness and their sound judgment and perception of their supreme strategic interests and comprehensive national objectives.

We strongly believe that the factors that influenced this special relationship between the two countries and peoples are equally applicable now, and will be in the future. We also believe that the regional and international factors that have emerged in our contemporary era make it incumbent on us to promote these relations with all our might and determination, and to expand them to all fields. This should be done in a spirit of diligence, awareness, and enlightenment.

My brother and dear friend, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam:

This is your first visit to your brothers in Egypt. It is also the first visit by an Ethiopian leader to our country since the advent of the revolution in Ethiopia. This visit is a true perfection of our mutual desire to raise our bilateral relations to a level that befits our mutual interests and feelings. Therefore, we believe this visit is a historic occasion, which will result in turning over a new leaf in Egyptian-Ethiopian relations. It will generate an enormous momentum that should be utilized to promote bilateral cooperation in many fields.

I have had the opportunity to meet with you over the past 2 years when the African summit conference was convened in Addis Ababa. Even then, I sensed your genuine interest in strengthening our bilateral relations because they are an important factor in maintaining security and stability in this strategic part of the African Continent and the Red Sea Basin, and also because they constitute a prop for rapprochement and mutual reliance among all states in the region.

I also had the chance to acquaint myself with the extent of the great work you are doing in the fields of economic and social development, in increasing the means of agricultural and industrial production, and in improving the standard of human services in the interests of the masses. These interests do not differ from our interests in Egypt during this delicate stage when we are struggling to strengthen our country's economic and cultural independence, as well as to achieve social justice through an all-inclusive development and by increasing national production, absorbing modern technology in agriculture and industry, and intensifying cooperation with the states of the south. We are linked to these countries by common interests, a similarity in our social and economic conditions, and our nearly identical stage of development.

This common interest is undoubtedly being very well achieved within the framework of the one African family that confronts the same challenges and difficulties, the members of which are joined by a common goal and fate. This commonality thereby imposes on us the need to exert more efforts.

To prove this, it is sufficient that I refer to the debts problem, the decrease in the African and all developing states' share of the volume of international trade, and the meagerness of the trade volume among the African states themselves, although it has been proved that it is in their joint interest to increase this volume as much as possible.

If we look at the figures pertaining to African debts, we see that, according to the authorized international estimates, these debts reached $168 billion by the end of 1985, and the burden of servicing them has reached $27 billion annually. This is at a time when the African states' share of international trade has decreased by an annual average of 3.5 percent. The rate of trade exchange among the African states in comparison to their total exports is steadily decreasing. It amounted to 5.5 percent in 1970, but by 1985 it had dropped to 4.1 percent. This is happening at a time when our continent is facing the dangers of drought and desertification, which threaten the lives of millions and cast their shadows on the future as well.

We believe the only way out of this situation lies in making greater efforts to increase production in all sectors, in developing more self-reliance and self-sufficiency, and in giving priority to trade among African countries.

As you correctly said at the 22d African summit, held in the capital of your fraternal country in July 1986, it is the duty of the African governments to realize that they must depend on themselves, now more than ever, to confront the fierce challenges obstructing their path, to lay the firm foundations for long-term development, and to prepare what is needed to confront the natural calamities and danger of desertification in accordance with the Lagos program of action.

In addition to these enormous challenges, we consider it our duty to confront the threat posed by the oppressive racist policy and repressive inhuman practices of the minority regime in South Africa. This regime applies the apartheid system, resists the independence of Namibia, and impedes the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978. Resolution 435 calls for a united African and international effort to increase the material and moral support for the African Frontline States and liberation movements, as well as to impose comprehensive and manmdatory sanctions on the racist minority regime in Pretoria.

Furthermore, we stand together in rejecting foreign intervention in the affairs of African states, out of our belief that such interference can lead us all into grave danger and usher in several negative developments. In Chad, for example, the sovereignty of the Chadian people is currently being violated and their security, safety, and territorial and national unity are threatened. Therefore, we support the brotherly Chadian people in their struggle to restore their unity and exercise sovereignty over their own territory.

On the same premise, your country supports the peoples of the Middle East in their efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Your country also supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their right to participate on an equal footing in the work for peace.

We do see signs of progress on the horizon. There is an ever-increasing consensus that an international peace conference must be held, attended by the states that are permanent members of the UN Security Council and the parties directly concerned with the conflict, including the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Within the context of our concern to establish peace and terminate the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, we call upon all parties to refrain from any actions that might jeopardize the chances of holding a peace conference. We are trying to arrive at a unified Arab position, the cornerstone of which is the Jordanian-Palestinian concept of peace and its requirements. Foremost among these is the principle of land for peace.

We cannot ignore the Iran-Iraq war, a conflict that benefits neither side. It only entails the squandering of the human and natural resources of the two countries and a futile loss of life. Hence, we support the ongoing efforts within the UN Security Council to reach a formula that will put an end to the bloodshed and stop this ferocious war.

Dear brothers, it gives me pleasure to say once again that we welcome our dear brother and friend Mengistu and his comrades to the good land of Egypt. I hope that this visit will contribute in a concrete way to developing bilateral cooperation in various fields to a previously unattained level. We look forward to pursuing our consultations and brotherly dialogue with you on all occasions, for the common good and mutual benefit of both our countries.

Dear brothers, allow me to ask you to rise and salute our friend Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, our honored guests from

Ethiopia, and the strong relations between the two countries and peoples. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam also made a speech in which he thanked President Mubarak for the warm reception and welcome accorded to him. He also expressed his pleasure at being in Egypt, and conveyed the greetings of the people and Government of Ethiopia to the people and Government of Egypt.

In his address, the Ethiopian president stressed that Egypt and Ethiopia can work to improve their relations. He said that strengthening bilateral ties will contribute to the development of relations among African states and will help buttress the OAU.

President Mengistu also declared that his country will do its utmost to secure respect for the Palestinian people's rights and bring about a settlement of the Middle East crisis through the convocation of an international peace conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO. In addition, he called for a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq war and a solution to the Lebanese problem.

The Ethiopian president condemned the racist regime in South Africa and called on the international community to put an end to it.

The following is the text of the Ethiopian president's speech:

Dear Brother, Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. We feel very fortunate today to be among the fraternal people of the Arab Republic of Egypt, which occupies a prominent place in the history of the African peoples' struggle for freedom and is rightfully proud of its deep-rooted civilization. I wish to express my profound gratitude for the warm and friendly reception and the generous hospitality that have been shown to us since our arrival in the city of Cairo.

On this joyful occasion, I wish to convey the amicable feelings of the Ethiopian people and their government, their good wishes, and their heartfelt greetings to the fraternal people and Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Your Excellency President Husni Mubarak, we are proud and happy to be among you to see at close hand the extent of the great progress the Egyptian people have made in the various fields of development as a result of your farsightedness and wise leadership, in addition to exchanging views with you. The peoples of both our countries are eternally linked by historical, cultural, and economic ties.

From this solid and correct premise, we firmly believe in the ability of Egypt and Ethiopia to work together to better develop our relations and attain progress and prosperity for our peoples.

It is no secret that we have met before on various occasions and exchanged views on common issues. I must mention here that the factors that bring our countries closer are more numerous than those that separate them, and that there is a common wish to eliminate the divisive elements and work to bring about a melding of our common interests. We believe this visit will do much to contribute to the realization of this wish. By virtue of the fact that our two countries are linked together by the grand Nile River and that they exist on the shores of the Red Sea and on one continent, our relations are important and special. We know that the Nile River benefits both our countries greatly. Because this river, which springs from our country, is a natural gift that brings our peoples close to each other through its contribution to development, we must take advantage of this opportunity to boost all facets of our relations.

Regarding the Nile, we wish to cooperate with all the countries that benefit from this river, to stand for peace and common benefits, and to abide by the principles and commitments of international relations as stipulated by international law.

There is no reason to question this river's contribution in strengthening and developing the relations among the African countries and in the OAU, in consolidating peace and stability on our continent, and in bringing about rapid social and economic progress for our peoples. From this angle, then, we are looking at the benefits that will be reaped from strengthening Ethiopian-Egyptian relations.

Your Excellency the President, the African peoples have laid the foundation for their progressive activities through the struggles they have waged in the past 30 years to attain their freedom, in the sacrifices they have made for the sake of this, and in the victories they achieved against imperialism.

Despite this, the complete elimination of apartheid and racism in the southern part of our continent, and their replacement by a system under which equality and justice would prevail, call for special attention from all the freedom- and peace-loving parts of the world, and particularly by African governments. The racist policy pursued by the arrogant regime in Pretoria, particularly the state of emergency it recently proclaimed, but also its suppression of the means of information, have led to an increase in its inhuman deeds, persecutions, and massacres.

In addition to the injustices committed by the racist South African Government at home, it is also carrying out large-scale terrorist acts to destabilize the African Frontline States.

There is no doubt that the Frontline States figure among the many problems facing our continent. They receive the first strikes, and they are the ones being subjected to comprehensive attacks. Therefore, we Africans should constantly keep this in mind and make continuing efforts to implement the resolutions adopted by the 22nd African summit, as well as the Harare nonaligned summit, as the attacks on the Frontline States are directed against us all.

As for Namibia, we must note on this occasion Pretoria's exploitation of Namibia through the illegitimate occupation of the latter's lands, its recent efforts to set up a sham government there, and its rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 435 with the support of certain Western governments. (?These acts) must be strongly condemned by the international community.

The struggle for survival in the southern part of our continent concerns not only the Africans living in this part of Africa, but also the entire continent, and all the world's peace- and freedomloving peoples. Therefore, once again we repeat our call to the international community to embark on tangible steps in support of the struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia to end apartheid.

Brother President Mubarak, dear guests: Ever since the outbreak of the Ethiopian people's revolution in 1974, several radical measures have been taken to expedite the social progress of our people; to solidify equality, cooperation, and unity among our people; and to emphasize our democratic rights. In view of the fact that Egypt is a friendly neighboring state, our Egyptian brothers have closely followed the aforesaid achievements. Therefore, I do not believe I need to go into detail. However, I would like to note here that we are now experiencing the final phase of the building process of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, which will prove to the working people that they have direct authority in the country, a main objective of our revolution.

Your Excellency, our foreign policy is based on proletarian internationalism and peaceful coexistence, as well as the principles of nonalignment, and is committed to both the UN and OAU Charters. We also give special attention to promoting amicable relations and cooperation with our neighbors and other countries in the region on the basis of peace, equality, and mutual respect. Ever since the outbreak of our revolution, this policy, plus the policy of good will, has been applied in a practical manner in our relations with our neighbors who are tied geographically, historically, culturally, and economically with Ethiopia, as well as with the region's countries in general. In this respect, in the last 13 years we have sent good will delegations to the Arab states in a bid to clearly convey our desire to promote our historical relations with them in all fields of cooperation. At no time have we failed to clarify our principled and unshakable position regarding the pressing Arab issues that occur every now and then, nor have we ever confined ourselves to our historical relations. However, we do not believe our good intentions and constructive efforts have been met with an equal or suitable response by some Arab states.

As far as Ethiopia is concerned, our stand is a principled one. We stress today, as we did in the past, that we will unreservedly do our utmost to ensure respect for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, contribute to a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq war and a solution of the Lebanese problem, and in general bring about peace in the Middle East and bolster Afro-Arab cooperation.

Ethiopia strongly supports efforts to reach a settlement of the Middle East crisis, and backs the idea of an international peace conference under UN supervision with the participation of all parties and countries concerned, including the PLO. In this way a permanent solution may be found to the problem of the Palestinian people.

The question of peace is one of the most pressing issues in our contemporary world. Realizing that there can be no progress without peace, the forces for peace in the world are now raising their voices and demanding this peace, which is indispensable if the life of mankind is to continue.

Proceeding from this premise, Ethiopia strongly supports the struggle being waged by the peace-loving forces, particularly the Soviet Union, which stands at the forefront. The Soviet Union has consistently submitted constructive proposals to safeguard world peace, stop the arms race, and remove the danger of nuclear war, which threatens the annihilation of the cultural heritage that mankind has built up over the centuries. Ethiopia is making continuous efforts toward this end.

The struggle for social progress, justice, and equality is also part of the struggle for peace. We believe that it is our duty to do all we can in the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the OAU to bring about a new world economic system to replace the present generally shaky one, and to further strengthen cooperation among the developing countries.

The world economic crisis and natural and artificially produced problems are particularly apparent in Africa. We have no option, therefore, but to make combined efforts to alleviate the effects of these problems, strengthen the OAU, and work for the attainment of its goals.

We must also continue to try to persuade all parties concerned to implement the declarations and resolutions of the OAU, Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations, designed to make the Indian Ocean a nuclear-free zone.

Brother President Mubarak, dear guests: We hope that the longstanding friendly relations between our two countries and peoples will be established on firmer foundations and in complete understanding, and that they will have both depth and breadth.

Once again, we stress that we will do our utmost to bolster and develop our relations, which are based on peace, equality, and mutual respect. This is in line with Ethiopia's aim and desire to serve common interests, further progress, and prosperity together with the neighboring peoples and countries in the region.

Finally, I invite you to toast the health of my brother President Husni Mubarak, the prosperity and well-being of the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the eternal friendship of the peoples of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Socialist Ethiopia.

The banquet was also attended by Lieutenant General Ibrahim 'Abd al-Ghafur al-'Arabi, the Army chief of staff; Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Hilmi, commander of the Air Force; Ibrahim Nafi', chairman of the *Al-Ahram* board of directors; *Al-Akhbar* Chief Editor Sa'id Sunbul; and Muhsin Muhammad, chairman of the board of directors of the Al-Tahrir printing and publishing house.

'Abd al-Majid Views Visit

NC091045 Cairo MENA in English 1025 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, April 9 (MENA) — Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid today stressed the importance of the visit which President Mengistu of Ethiopia began to Egypt today.

He referred to cordial and special relations which developed between President Mubarak and President Mengistu as a result of the meetings which took place between them in Addis Ababa.

The visit affords an opportunity to discuss important issues between Egypt and our sister African country, Ethiopia, he said.

Foremost on the agenda of the talks, which open tomorrow, are international issues, particularly the Middle East issue, and matters of interest to the two countries.

On relations between Ethiopia and each of Sudan and Somalia, 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt was keen to see stability prevail. Ethiopia was also interested in stability in that area, which is vital to us, he said.

The Egyptian foreign minister said economic matters would be among the topics to be discussed with the Ethiopian side.

There was a good opportunity to boost trade and economic cooperation between Egypt and Ethiopia, 'Abd al-Majid said.

He referred to the visit of the Ethiopian minister of economy to Cairo last January.

There have also been economic contacts between the two countries.

Further Reportage on Visiting Soviet Delegation

Ma'ruf, Demichev at Ceremony

JN091642 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA) -- The 15th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union was celebrated in Baghdad today. The ceremony was attended by Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Petr Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo andfirst deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

In a speech at the ceremony, Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf asserted that the treaty has laid down clear and agreed foundations for relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He said that since the signing of the agreement, Iraqi-Soviet relations have been distinguished by the fact they were based on equality and mutual respect for the sovereignty of each country and on fruitful cooperation between the two countries. He added that in the past 15 years such cooperation has developed to a high level and covers political, economic, trade, cultural, scientific, and other important fields.

Ma'ruf said the visit by President Saddam Husayn to Moscow in December 1985 and his meeting with Soviet leaders had a great effect on deepening the understanding between the two friendly countries to develop joint cooperation in various fields. The vice president asserted that Iraq has, through President Saddam Husayn, emphasized its desire to continue relations of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union in accordance with bases defined by the treaty and in the same spirit which characterized the previous period.

The vice president added: Iraq, which always taken a serious and honest stand in building international relations and in fulfilling commitments toward its friends and toward the states with which it maintains relations on the basis of mutual respect and common interests, will shoulder its responsibilities in its relations with the Soviet Union with the same spirit it has shown for the past 15 years.

Referring to the Iraq-Iran war, Ma'ruf said that for several years Iraq has been the target of an aggression launched by the rulers of Iran to undermine its sovereignty, destroy its freedom, independence, and the great gains achieved by the Iraqi people under the 17-30 July revolution, and undermine the region's security and stability.

Vice President Ma'ruf asserted that Iraq -- which has bravely and capably struggled for freedom, independence, and progress and which has supported with all its resources the peoples of the region and the world in their struggle for freedom and independence -- did not want the war imposed upon it by the ruling clique in Tehran, but always sought to establish good neighborly relations with Iran.

The vice president maintained that peace can be established on the basis of freedom and respect for sovereignty and equal rights of states and peoples. He said President Saddam Husayn has announced five principles as a basis for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. Ma'ruf said these principles alone can achieve such an objective.

He said we are proud these principles enjoy wide support throughout the world, including the support of the friendly Soviet Union, adding that these principles were approved by the Arab League as a suitable basis for resolving the conflict.

Ma'ruf asserted that the whole world knows and respects Iraq's stand, which is compatible with the hopes of peoples and their desire for peace and a free, dignified life. He said the world also knows the stands of Iran's ruling clique, which insists on disavowing international law and deviating from mankind's desire for peace and peaceful coexistence and also insists on exporting its backward and bloody system.

RCC member Ma'ruf urged the whole world to make constant and effective efforts to bring about peace in the region and to reject and resist the Iranian regime's policies of aggression and expansion.

Vice President Ma'ruf expressed, on behalf of the Iraqi leaders, sincere wishes of continued progress and success to the friendly Soviet people and Iraq's appreciation for the Soviet Union's positive and active initiatives and stands to reduce international tension, bring about disarmament, and strengthen opportunities for peace in the world.

Petr Demichev also delivered a speech expressing the Soviet Union's satisfaction with the progress of relations with Iraq. He said the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries has achieved the hopes pinned upon it and has become a basis on which bilateral ties are successfully built.

Demichev added that this document reflects the political will of Iraq and the Soviet Union to build bilateral relations stemming from close or identical viewpoints on basic international and regional issues, as well as from their concern to promote and expand the level of mutual trust and common understanding.

The first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium pointed out that the summit meeting between President Saddam Husayn and Soviet leader Gorbachev in Moscow, 1985, gave the agreements which had been reached new momentum for future development in bilateral relations and helped entrench mutual trust.

In his speech Demichev dealt with the Soviet Union's stand on the Iraq-Iran war. He said the Soviet Union supports halting the Iraq-Iran dispute, solving disputed issues through negotiations in accordance with recognized rules of international law, and safeguarding the sovereignty and safety of the territories of both countries.

Petr Demichev explained that his country extended and is still extending aid to all noble and constructive efforts, including those carried out within the framework of the United Nations, to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. He said the USSR will continue to follow this course in the future.

'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, chairman of the Federation of Iraqi Societies for Friendship With Peoples, affirmed that the treaty entrenched ties of friendship, laid down solid foundations for cooperation and understanding between the two peoples, and expressed the strategic objectives of the 17-30 July revolution and the October Socialist Revolution.

Amin said that celebrating this occasion is another incentive to achieve, promote, and consolidate fruitful bilateral cooperation. It affirms the joint desire of the two friendly countries' peoples and leaderships, and serves their interests and the causes of peoples' struggle for the sake of freedom and national independence.

The Al-Bayariq group of the Musical Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture and Information and a Soviet symphony orchestra played musical pieces and performed dances during the celebration.

The Federation of Iraqi Societies for Friendship With Peoples, in cooperation with the Soviet Embassy, held a photographic exhibition on this occasion featuring 40 photos of President Saddam Husayn's visit to Moscow and his meetings with Soviet leaders. The photos portrayed the fruitful economic cooperation, the activities of the Iraqi-Soviet friendship societies, and the delegations' visits.

Minister of Heavy Industries Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi, Baghdad Governor 'Abd al-Qadir Kuhammad Amin, Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society head Dr Najih Muhammad Khalil, a number of ministry under secretaries, heads of popular organizations, university presidents, a number of Baghdad Ba'th Party branch members, and Arab and friendly ambassadors in Baghdad attended the ceremony.

Ramadan, Demichev Begin Talks

JN091926 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1828 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA) -- Official talks between Iraq and the Soviet Union began in Baghdad tonight. The Iraqi side was led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; the Soviet side was led by Petr Demichev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member.

During the talks the two sides reviewed existing bilateral relations and affirmed the satisfaction of the leaders of both countries with the progress and development of these relations in various spheres. Bilateral relations have developed and expanded following the meeting between President Saddam Husayn and Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee General Secretary, in December 1985.

The two sides affirmed that the leaders of the two countries are anxious to strengthen and are serious about strengthening joint cooperation to promote the common interests of both friendly countries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewed developments in the Iraq-Iran war and Iraq's peaceful efforts stemming from its principles and in line with the policy of its revolution. He emphasized the Iraqi Armed Forces are capable of crushing any aggression by the collapsing Iranian forces.

Petr Demichev expressed the Soviet leaders' pride in and appreciation of the progress in bilateral cooperation and their eagerness and readiness to establish new areas of extensive cooperation. He praised the progress which Iraq has attained despite the war. Demichev reaffirmed his country's support for peace, and said the Soviet leaders value and appreciate Iraq's consistently peaceful stands and acceptance of international resolutions to end the war by peaceful means.

The Iraqi side in the talks included Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi, minister of heavy industries and head of the Iraqi side on the Iraqi-Soviet joint committee; the under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and other officials.

The Soviet side included Vladimir Pavlov, deputy minister of foreign trade; Yevgeniy Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Relations; officials; and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Saddam Cables Gromyko, Ryzhkov

JN091525 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 apr 87

["Text" of cable from President Saddam Husayn to Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] Mr Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium:

Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers:

On the advent of the 15th anniversary of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union, it gives me pleasure to send to both of you and to the Soviet leadership warmest congratulations and wishes. The treaty of friendship and cooperation, which has linked our two friendly countries for 15 years and is based on principles of equity, mutual respect for sovereignty, and constructive cooperation, has been fruitful in the past in all fields of cooperation. The treaty still constitutes a sound basis for the continuation and promotion of bilateral relations.

On this occasion I would like to stress Iraq's desire to continue the relations of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union in accordance with the principles stipulated by the treaty and with the same spirit which has characterized the past, to serve the common interests of both friendly countries, to promote work for the sake of peace and stability in our region and on an international level, and to servecommon principles of freedom, equity, and justice.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq

Iranian Attacks, Iraqi Responses for 8-9 Apr

Communique No 2,634

JN091721 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,634 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through their combat activities to defend truth and freedom, safeguard the homeland, and preserve the people's dignity and sovereignty, our Armed Forces confirm that great Iraq has decided the war with the anti-Arab clique with clear victory in its favor and in favor of our Arab nation; and that all that is left for the hireling Iranian rulers, the agents of Zionism, are reckless attempts which will not change the fact this clique has been defeated and that its evil intentions have foundered on the rock of solid Iraqi steadfastness. No dead man can beat a living person.

The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. After sustaining massive losses in the 7-8 April battles, the frustrated Zionist regime tried to attack the valiant Qutaybah Forces at 0230 today [2230 GMT on 8 April]. At the beginning of the battle the enemy gained a foothold in the positions of two companies. Immediately our valiant men attacked the enemy strongly and expelled the enemy forces. The situation has been completely settled in favor of our victorious forces.

At the same time, the enemy sent groups of its herds to attack some of our defensive positions of the heroic Muhammad al-Qasim Forces. Fighting between the two sides on the division's front continued with alternate success. Our brave ground forces, supported by our giant Air Force, our great artillery, our brave helicopter gunships, and our valiant armored forces, confronted the enemy forces, annihilating and wounding thousands of enemy rogues whose bodies litter the area.

Our forces continue to confront enemy remnants, inflicting very heavy losses on them and sending them to the fires of hell. Our forces impose full control on the situation while enemy remnants are collapsing under the painful blows of our brave soldiers. God bless the Qutaybah and Muhammad al-Qasim Forces! God bless all the III Army Corps troops, the faithful guards of great Iraq's borders! Proceed forward to achieve decisive victory over the enemy, God willing. God is the best supporter.

2. Our brave hawks continued their successful raids on enemy units, providing the best support for our ground forces in the heroic III Army Corps sector while they crushed the remnants of injustice and aggression. This came in 176 combat missions, which sent the aggressors to death, destroyed their equipment and weapons, and demolished their positions over their heads. The hawks returned safely with their planes to base, God be praised,

3. The brave helicopter knights also took their share in harvesting the empty Khomeyniite heads. In their heroic missions today they provided splendid support for our ground units while they were wiping out enemies. They carried out 79 combat missions, during which they destroyed many enemy vehicles, tanks, and weapons. After carrying out their missions, the brave knights returned safely to base in God's care.

4. Our units on the III Army Corps front continued their brave activities against the aggressors, directing their strong fire on enemy concentrations, positions, and vehicles and inflicting heavy losses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 April 1987

Iranians in 'Confused Retreat'

JN091508 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1431 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah confronted an Iranian attack at 0230 today [2230 GMT on 8 April].

An INA war correspondent currently present in the theater of operations, quoting information from field commanders, said the Iraqi forces destroyed most of the attacking Iranian force. No less than 7,000 Iranians of the 17th 'Ali ibn Abi Talib Division, the 41st Th'rallah Division, the 11th Guards Division, and the 27th Guards Muhammad Rasulallah Division were either killed or wounded.

The correspondent added that the Iraqi forces are still confronting the Iranian attack and inflicting heavy losses on the Iranian forces, and that the Iraqi forces control the situation completely. He said the exhausted Iranian forces have begun a disorderly, confused retreat before the Iraqi forces which encircle them.

He pointed out that the Iranian forces, which could not achieve any of their objectives, sustained thousands of losses, whose bodiesare still on the battlefield, in addition to thousands of wounded and hundreds of POW's who were evacuated to the rear.

Iranian Attack 'Broken'

JN100752 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA) -- The staff brigadier general commander of the Qutaybah Forces in the III Army Corps sector in the south has asserted that the backbone of the aggression has been broken once again as it drove off new human waves which were crushed under the Iraqi soldiers' feet. He described this aggressive attempt as the kick of a dying man made by the Zionists of Iran.

In a statement published by the newspaper *Al-Qadisiyah* in Baghdad today, he said the enemy attempt to attack our brave Armed Forces at dawn on 9 April has failed and the Zionist-Khomeyniites have sustained thousands of dead. He pointed out that the enemy met grave failure in launching an aggression against the Qutaybah Forces formations on the nights of 6-7 April. The enemy waves were fragmented before the barricades without being able to reach our defensive positions, he added.

The Qutaybah Forces commander said: This result has a deep significance, expressing the ability of our men and the solidarity of the defensive positions, as well as the vigilance, follow up, and accurate preparations made daily to confront possibilities and emergency situations. He explained that the enemy units driven to this battle sustained extremely heavy losses and that the remaining units were forced to flee and retreat. These units, he said, were estimated at two infantry brigades from Division 25 called Karbala'.

He added: The enemy, as is its habit not to learn italessons, repeated its mean attempt to attack the Qutaybah Forces formations at 0240 [as received] at dawn on 9 April [2240 GMT on 8 April] using more than an infantry division, including brigades from the so-called Al-Imam al-Rida Division and from the 5th Division called Nasr. However, the enemy faced an even graver defeat. He said: The enemy attempt was crushed by a steel wall of steadfastness, challenge, and brave fighting.

10 Khomeyni Divisions Crushed

JN101218 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces has destroyed 10 Khomeyni Guard divisions in the III Army Corps operational sector east of Al-Basrah during the past 3 days.

An *Iraqi News Agency* war correspondent currently in the operational theater said: On the basis of information obtained from field commanders, the number of Iranians killed is more than 7,000 and their bodies are still on the battlefield, in addition to thousands of wounded and large numbers of captured who were evacuated to the rear. He added that the Iranians placed themselves in a narrow strip where uninterrupted Iraqi fire is being poured on them from bombers, fighter planes, helicopters, and from thousands of muzzles of artillery, tanks, and mortars.

The INA war correspondent said that the Iraqi forces managed to wipe out all of the human waves that the Iranians have thrust on all axes over the past 3 days; and that the Iraqi forces now have the initiative and are advancing to purge all footholds that the Iranians gained in one of the formations, to which the Iraqi communique issued 3 days ago referred.

The war correspondent said that the Iranians lost three aircraft: two F-5's and one F-4; one Cobra helicopter; scores of tanks; and hundreds of armored vehicles and other military hardware in the battles. He added that the Iranian 41st Division, 27th Division, 17th Division, 11th Division, and 11th Brigade, and the Al-Ghadir Brigade were destroyed.

The war correspondent said the Iranians also lost scores of guns as a result of the Iraqi Air Force's strikes and artillery shelling, as well as scores of tubular launchers. He said two drones were also downed.

Hundreds of Iranian corpses are still floating on Al-Asmak Lake, scene of the Iranian attack, according to an INA war correspondent. The Iraqi forces are now in complete control and carrying out counterattacks, he said, adding that large numbers of the commanders of Iranian formations were killed.

The INA correspondent quotes reliable sources as saying the Iranian forces were visibly tired and disorganized, and that as a result of the heavy losses they sustained they failed to mount a serious effort. The last Iranian attempt was to mount an attack last night against the Muhammad al-Qasim forces. The attacking force was routed, said the INA correspondent.

Helicopter Downings Denied

JN091424 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1337 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA) -- An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iran's claims of downing two helicopters today. In a statement to INA a short while ago, the spokesman affirmed that the Iranian regime's false claims aim to cover its failure before the Iraqi forces.

Military Denies Plane Downed

JN091831 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1803 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Apr (INA) -- Iraq has denied Iranian claims of downing an Iraqi aircraft. An Iraqi military spokesman told INA tonight that what Tehran radio claimed this evening is only part of the lies frequently told by the Iranian regime in an attempt to cover its failure to confront the Iraqi forces.

An Iraqi military communique said earlier today that Iraqi fighter planes and helicopters carried out 255 combat missions against the Iranian forces on the battle fronts.

Communique No 2,635

JN101148 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1036 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,635 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 April 1987]

[Text] God is great. Praise be to God who grants victory. O proud Iraqis, the rotten Khomeyniite regime which is staggering due to the painful Iraqi blows; which is suffocated by its internal economic, social, and political crises; and which failed to meet its ill-reputed slogan called the year of decisiveness, despite all of its empty claims, despite the imperialist-Zionist aid, and despite all motives of hatred deeply established in this regime, is trying to find any loophole in the solid Iraqi wall to continue the course of war and aggression and to ease the burden of the horrible losses it has sustained with cheap lies. Hence, every now and then this regime tries to push the remnants of its defeated units toward this or that sector in the hope that it might obtain something to feed its untrue propoaganda machine after its military machine collapsed before the splendid Iraqi steadfastness.

At a time when this regime sustains thousands of casualties daily before our brave units in the III Army Corps sector, it carried out a futile attempt to attack our brave units in the II Army Corps sector. The ignorant, backward, futile Iranian rulers, who have had bad luck in their war with Iraq, did not know Iraq's eye covers all of the conflict's map and that Iraq has prepared for everything. Thus, at 0345 on 9 April 1987 [2345 GMT on 8 April], the futile enemy attacked our heroic units on two axes in the Muslim ibn 'Aqil Forces front in the II Army Corps operational sector. A fierce battle erupted between our frontline units and the enemy forces. Our valiant men from the courageous shock troops and the mechanized infantry managed to destroy a large number of the enemy forces in the no-man's-land. The enemy only managed to obtain a foothold on one company and one platoon. Our brave forces launched a counterattack in which the Iraqi fighter's courage and solidity were demonstrated, in addition to the efficiency of the field command on the level of the army corps, the division, units, and formations.

Following an epic-like battle which lasted until 0400 today [2400 GMT on 9 April], our forces managed to completely annihilate the enemy forces in the footholds they obtained. The positions of the company and the platoon were finally purged. Despite subsequent attempts by the enemy to approach our units, these attempts were fragmented by Iraqi fire one after the other so that the enemy remnants were forced to make an unorganized retreat deep inside Iran. The situation was completely settled in favor of our triumphant forces, and the enemy did not obtain a single foothold on our pure territory. Moreover, the enemy sustained more than 1,500 casualties, killed or wounded, and a number of enemy personnel were captured.

This is the fate of the Khomeyniite aggression against the front of the heroic Muslim ibn 'Aqil Forces in the brave II Army Corps operational sector. This aggression will face the same fate in all of its futile attempts, at any time and in any place. Disappointment to the intentions of the aggressors, the rabble agents of Zionism. May their machinations return to them. Blessed be the heroic Muslim ibn 'Aqil Forces as well as the formations operation under them -- command, officers, and other ranks. Blessed be the heroic II Army Corps -- command, officers, and other ranks -- which scores glorious victories over the enemies of our country. We will proceed from one victory to another under the banner of our great, beloved leader, and our home will continue to be protected by its leader and men. Praise be to God.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 April 1987

Al-Rifa'i Views U.S. Talks Prior to London Trip

JN090915 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9-10 Apr p 1, 4, 5

[Excerpts] Washington — Prime Minister Zaid al-Rifa'i left Washington for London on Wednesday after a three-day visit during which he conferred with senior Reagan administration officials on efforts towards convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Prior to his departure from Washington, Mr al-Rifa'i told reporters Jordan and the United States had narrowed some of their differences regarding the proposed international conference.

Mr al-Rifa'i said progress had been made in obtaining U.S. support for the Soviet-backed proposal.

"I believe there's acceptance for our position...we're not discussing the principle any more. We're discussing the details," Mr al-Rifa'i said. He said Jordan would continue consultations with the United States on the subject.

The United States initially rejected the idea of a conference, but in recent months has said it would support such a conference if it led to direct Arab-Israeli talks.

Mr al-Rifa'i also said Jordan had coordinated its position closely with Syria, which he said was willing to participate in an international forum. [passage omitted]

Saying "We still have a lot of work to do," Mr al-Rifa'i said Wednesday the differences between Jordan and the United States "all related to the role of the conference, the modalities of it, its terms of reference, its scope."

However, he added: "Just the mere fact that we are talking about the international conference, its terms, its modalities, its role, is in itself and by itself progress."

"It is the details regarding the details of the conference and its participation and helping the parties arrive at agreement that is under discussion now," he said.

Mr al-Rifa'i said: "Very frankly, we believe it should be a conference of substance, not one of subterfuge. It must have an ongoing role and not just be a photo opportunity, not just a mere device." [passage omitted]

Mr al-Rifa'i said without elaboration that compromise was under discussion. While expressing hope that differences would be bridged, he said there would be no conference if they were not.

Mr al-Rifa'i said Jordan was working on ideas "that will ensure the acceptance (of invitations) by all the involved parties and participants, through this agreement, we hope we can set up a workable conference."

Mr al-Rifa'i said Jordan expects the United States to try to persuade Israel to drop its objection to the international conference.

The prime minister said participants at an international conference would include the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all the Middle East parties involved in the conflict. The external participants would act as mediators but would not have the power to impose any decisions, he said.

Mr al-Rifa'i also said a precondition for participation would be acceptance of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

He said the Palestinians would have to be represented at the conference by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), provided the PLO accepts the two U.N. resolutions.

Mr al-Rifa'i said Palestinian participation would take place within the framework of a joint delegation with Jordan.

Mr al-Rifa'i said Jordan had not asked the United States for any new weapons, although there were ongoing talks regarding purchases of spare parts.

Mr al-Rifa'i also said Jordan had been assured by the United States that its arms sales to Iran were "an aberration" and would not be repeated.

Mr al-Rifa'i held out little hope of an early visit to Washington by King Husayn but said agreement should be reached to allow one before the end of the year.

Talking to reporters after talks with Mr Shultz on Tuesday, Mr al-Rifa'i said he had stressed Jordan's commitment to a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute. [passage omitted]

Al-Majali Receives Hungarian Water Official

JN081547 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Amman — Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali met in his office today with Antal Kovacs, chairman of the Hungarian National Water Affairs Office. Their discussions focused on bilateral cooperation and ways of promoting it, with emphasis on matters dealing with water. The meeting was also attended by Eng Muhammad Salih al-Kilani, director of the Water Authority Department.

In another development, a Jordanian delegation led by Eng al-Kilani and a Hungarian team headed by Kovacs began talks at the Water Authority Department today on aspects of bilateral cooperation in water affairs and water drainage.

Fadlallah Reportedly Working on Hostage Release

JN100726 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Apr 87 p 30

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Diplomatic reports from Beirut indicate that the time is ripe for an attempt to release the four professors of the American University of Beirut. They are three Americans and one Indian who, according to these reports, are held by a Hizballah group led by Al-haj Husayn Khalil, one of the key figures of this party who is not among the clergymen.

This group claimed that it was behind the abduction of four Soviet diplomats earlier last year. This accounts for the deterioration in relations between Walid Junblatt and Hizballah, especially after the disappearance of Anglican envoy Terry Waite, who went to Beirut to free the U.S. hostages but could not be traced, although he enjoyed Walid Junblatt's protection.

These reports base their expectations on Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah's departure for Damascus yesterday. Fadlallah, who is supposedly the spiritual leader of this party, will hold talks with the Syrian officials on several issues, including that of the hostages. Fadlallah had earlier promised to issue a religious judgment regarding one of the hostages called Dr Steen, whose life was reportedly in danger. However, this judgment was not issued on Friday as expected nor at any later date.

Fadlallah held lengthy talks with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, who visited Fadlallah in his home on the eve of his departure for Damascus.

These reports add that Fadlallah's talks in Damascus will concentrate on working out a plan to release the four captives since it is known they are held by a group which Fadlallah, in cooperation with Syria, can influence. This is especially true since Al-haj Khalil has assumed a prominent position in Hizballah following a series of recent changes that ended with the dismissal of elements that had a purely Iranian affiliation.

In a related development, Britain's *Observer* has stated that those detaining Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite in Lebanon have expressed their readiness to release him for a ransom. The paper cited Iranian sources close to the militias holding Waite as saying that Lebanese politicians have recently held contacts and believe Waite's captors will release him for a ransom. The paper indicated that Hizballah, which is believed to be holding Waite, is suffering from financial problems and that the reports received from Lebanon say Hizballah is ready to free him for money.

Al-Musawi: Kidnappers' Terms Same as Iran's

PM091211 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 8-14 Apr 87 p 11

[Interview with Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal, by Ruba Kabbarah in Al-Biqa'; date not given]

[Text] Mr Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the pro-Iranian "Islamic Amal," visited Damascus last week with a Hizballah delegation and met with President Hafiz al-Asad. This was the first visit to Damascus by a Hizballah delegation since the Syrian entry into west Beirut 22 February 1987 and the Fathallah barracks incident, in which 23 Hizballah members were killed by the Syrians.

Husayn al-Musawi, who split from Amal in 1982, is accused of kidnapping some Western hostages and transferring them to his military headquarters in Ba'labakk, Al-Biqa', where he has resided since 1982 and where Syrian forces have been in control since 1976.

Ruba Kabbarah, *Al-Majallah*'s correspondent in Lebanon, met with Al-Musawi at his headquarters in Al-Biqa' and a heated confrontation ensued:

[Kabbarah] You met with President al-Asad last week. How would you assess relations between Hizballah and Syria?

[Al-Musawi] We are in constant, regular touch with our Syrian brothers because both sides are in conflict with a common enemy, that is, Israel. We met on this basis. The issues discussed at the session related to uniting and reinforcing our ranks, as well as securing resources to confront the Israeli enemy. Of course, other topics were discussed, including the incident in Beirut (Fathallah barracks incident), and we decided to solve and eliminate the effects of this problem. Our Syrian brothers consider this to be an isolated incident resulting from an erroneous reaction. Despite its seriousness, it claimed the lives of 23 innocent brothers, we seek to pursue normal relations with our Syrian brothers because the common threat we face helps us withstand the pain of our wound. We, as sons of the "Hizballah nation" in Lebanon and on the directions of the Islamic revolution and its ulemas, seek to overcome this incident and continue our battle against Israel.

[Kabbarah] Was the entry of Syrian forces into the [Beirut] suburb discussed?

[Al-Musawi] President al-Asad assured us that Syria has not decided whether or not to enter the southern suburb and that there is no justification for such an entry. The Syrians entered West Beirut because of the current fighting. But since there is no fighting in the suburb, it should not be disarmed while the Phalange militias are still armed. If their idea is to enter greater Beirut, the suburb is not a part of it, indeed the suburb is part of the Jabal Lubnan Governorate.

[Kabbarah] How would you assess talks on security in greater Beirut?

[Al-Musawi] The Syrians say that their entry into west Beirut was not within the framework of greater Beirut. We feel that greater Beirut should support and supply the south so that the south can fight Israel. But with regard to a greater Beirut neutral in the fight against Israel, we would not recognize or agree to any security plan in it.

[Kabbarah] What about the crisis in Syrian-Iranian relations?

[Al-Musawi] Differences of view occur even within a single state. It is natural for disagreements in views to take place from time to time between Syria and Iran. But the crisis in question is in fact a "fabrication" by the Western media. What the Syrians and the Iranians differ over is not as serious as the media report. The Western media tend to portray relations between the two countries as explosive, although we see officials from both countries meeting, issuing joint statements, and stressing their alliance.

[Kabbarah] What are the basic political differences?

[Al-Musawi] The basic thing that Syria and Iran have in common with regard to Lebanon is their fight against Israel. As for other political positions, namely UN resolution 425 [on Lebanon], Syria kept quiet about it and did not oppose it, but Iran and the "believers" in Lebanon opposed it strongly. However, this did not result in a clash between Syria and Iran.

[Kabbarah] But there is a conflict of interest between the two countries: Syria considers Lebanon to be its sphere of influence and integral to its national security, while Iran considers Lebanon to be its sphere of influence and a center for exporting its revolution.

[Al-Musawi] We and our Syrian brothers, as President al-Asad confirmed, feel there is media incitement. The Syrian and Iranian influences should enable the Lebanese to confront their principal enemy, Israel.

[Kabbarah] Would you welcome the Palestinians' participation in the resistance against Israel?

[Al-Musawi] We urge and welcome such participation. But we feel that the PLO, especially at this time, has no intention of fighting Israel. There are religious and Muslim Palestinians who are ready to fight Israel. In fact we and they have carried out joint operations.

[Kabbarah] Would the camps war prevent any Palestinian from participating in the resistance against Israel?

[Al-Musawi] The camps war has jeopardized the capability of honorable Palestinians who wish to fight Israel and also of Amal elements who intend to fight Israel. Therefore we condemn this war and seek with all our brothers, Lebanese and Iranian believers, to bring this war to an end.

[Kabbarah] How do you view Palestinian weapons in light of what is being reported about the possibility of disarming the camps?

[Al-Musawi] The Palestinian people are oppressed and homeless people and we have to embrace and support them. The Palestinians themselves have to refrain from interfering in Lebanese internal affairs. The arms in the camps are a necessity for the Palestinians in the event of any potential Israeli aggression. Therefore these arms must remain to secure Palestinian participation in the resistance against Israel.

[Kabbarah] It is being said that the Syrian entry into west Beirut might lead to a solution to the hostage problem and that such a solution would give the green light for a Syrian role. Did you discuss the hostage issue with President al-Asad?

[Al-Musawi] We did not discuss the hostage issue at all.

[Kabbarah] How do you view the possibility of a solution?

[Al-Musawi] A solution can only be reached through negotiations between Iran and the Western countries concerned, namely France and the United States.

The question is now between states. If the Iranians are not the kidnappers, they at least have influence over the kidnappers. Shaykh Rafsanjani said: We will exert our influence over the kidnappers if the Americans and French rectify their position in relation to the Muslims and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Kabbarah] Does this mean that the kidnappers no longer have any demands and that the countries' demands are the principal issue?

[Al-Musawi] According to my information, the kidnappers' conditions are Iran's conditions on the grounds that they are loyal to the Islamic Republic. There is no difference between the demands of individuals and the demands of states. There is a public Islamic interest.

[Kabbarah] Do you see kidnapping as a means of struggle?

[Al-Musawi] It may well be so. Certainly it is so in some cases. But I have no details because I am not familiar with the files of kidnapping and kidnappers. Muslims learned about kidnapping from the United States and Israel. It is the West which initiated the school of kidnapping, so people began to deal with them in the same way.

[Kabbarah] Is Terry Waite a negotiator or a spy?

[Al-Musawi] I cannot determine this. I do not know.

[Kabbarah] There are rumors that Waite came to Ba'labakk and met with you personally.

[Al-Musawi] Those who speculate are liars. He did not come here. We did not see him and do not know anything about him. The media want to disseminate sensational material. It has been said that Terry was seen in Shtawrah. All that I have heard is that he was accused of spying and of possessing a device that can indicate his location. I am not sure whether these are accurate reports. If he is a spy, then he deserves what is happening to him.

Hizballah's Al-Tufayli on Security Plan, Hostages

NC091808 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Hizballah official Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has expressed his belief that the Syrians will not deploy in Beirut's southern suburb. In a statement he made to the press, Shaykh al-Tufayli did stress, however, that the Syrian security plan will include Sidon, and noted that the Syrians are thinking of going to Sidon through Jazzin.

According to Al-Tufayli, the security plan must include the Maronite and Druze mountains, in addition to Beirut; otherwise, it will not be fair. He denied reports that Hizballah is holding U.S. or French hostages, or Terry Waite. He also denied any Iranian dealings with Israel in the U.S.-Iran arms sale.

Hizballah Attempts To Kidnap Ba'th Official

NC081818 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The *Central News Agency* reports that, as part of the Syrian-Iranian conflict which resulted from the Fathallah barracks incident in Al-Bastah [in West Beirut], an armed Hizballah group has stormed the residence of 'Abd al-Amir 'Abbas, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization Command Council, in an attempt to kidnap him. The gunmen, however, did not find him in the house, and it turned out that he had gone into hiding.

The agency said this abduction attempt is part of a campaign of retaliation, in which Hizballah groups pursue officials suspected of involvement in the Fathallah operation. This incident resulted in the death of 23 Hizballah members at the hands of Syrian forces.

Dany Sham'un: Professors, Waite in 'Syrian Hands'

PM081449 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 4 Apr 87 p 23-25

[Interview with National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un by *Al-Tadamun* correspondent in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts][Passage omitted][*Al-Tadamun*] Why is the Christian side opposed to the Syrians' entry at a time when they appear to be the only force capable of imposing security in the West Beirut sector?

[Sham'un] We will explain our opposition as follws: We are certainly not against the restoration of security in West Beirut, particularly since the situation that prevailed there could be brought to a halt only by the principal motivator. The principal motivator was Syria, and Syria has entered Beirut not for the sake of Lebanon, its sovereignty, or its legitimacy. We have said nothing about the security situation in the western sector, which we viewed with great concern. We would not accept what was taking place there. But if Syria had really come to restore security and legitimacy in West Beirut, it should not have created this situation in the first place and would not have entered regardless of the views of the lawful Lebanese institutions.

[*Al-Tadamun*] You mean that Syria caused the situation to explode so that it could move in?

[Sham'un] There is no doubt that it has entered on the pretext of maintaining security despite the fact that it is the principal party to the conflict. It forced the socialists to allow the entry of five truckloads of ammunition for Amal which were used against them the following day.

[*Al-Tadamun*] What in your opinion is the motive for the Syrian entry?

[Sham'un] The motive is Syria's continuing desire to put Lebanon under its tutelage, impose its will on the lawful Lebanese Government, and place Lebanon under "Damascus' sovereignty."

[*Al-Tadamun*] But the Syrians are present in about 70 percent of Lebanon. Did they have to enter West Beirut to consolidate their presence?

[Sham'un] Beirut is the capital, and the final control of legitimacy takes place through the capital. Israel had previously chased the Syrians out of the capital; therefore the Syrians had a psychological and political motive to return as a face-saving gesture before the Syrian people. But this also happened under international pressure, the most important of which is the question of the hostages and the fighting among its allies. What was happening caused Syria to lose many cards in its hand, and now it has come back in order to retrieve those cards. When it entered the western sector and imposed its military control there, it summoned its allies to Damascus to play the charade of having agreed on "the Lebanese reconciliation plan."

[*Al-Tadamun*] Has Syria recovered the Lebanese and Palestinian cards?

[Sham'un] It has regained nothing. The Lebanese card is still in the hands of the independent Lebanese. Syria is just maneuvering and working to legitimize its presence in Lebanon. It has been doing this for some time, trying to "legitimize" its presence in Lebanon even before the "tripartite agreement." But, frankly, this is not legitimate; it is occupation. [passage omitted]

[*Al-Tadamun*]Syria did enter with the approval of all the Islamic parties.

[Sham'un] We will not specify which community. Under the pressure of fighting, attacks on homes, and an absence of security West Beirut residents shouted for help. It was natural that Syria should respond to the situation it had created in the first place. Its excuse was the restoration of security to the area and the release of "Western" hostages. Thus, the Western countries have turned a blind eye to what Syria has done, waiting to see what it will do within a specific period of time.

[*Al-Tadamun*] So it moved in with international approval.

[Sham'un] Certainly, because those countries have been unable to free their hostages. After they had become a "laughing stock" in the scandal of freeing their citizens, and their peoples protested against sending any troops to fight and die in Lebanon, they played the Syrian card, which we still believe is a losing card. We have accurate information showing that the four Beirut University professors and Terry Waite are at present in Syrian hands after they had been in Amal hands in Al-Murr tower. They are expected to be released as early as possible.

[*Al-Tadamun*] Is this the bill that Syria will have to settle?

[Sham'un] It is part of the bill; the other part is entering the southern suburbs — the Hizballah bastion. But Iran now stands as a hindrance to the release of the rest of the hostages who are in Syrian-controlled territories. In our view, Syria is responsible for the kidnapping of hostages and for their presence in those territories. It cannot evade this matter, and the West is confronting it. [passage omitted]

[*Al-Tadamun*] What we understand and have learned is that the Syrian entry constitutes the first step toward putting Lebanon on the path to a solution.

[Sham'un] We do not feel that there is a genuine Syrian intention to resolve the crisis. Those who went to Damascus created a major contradiction. They met, they decided, and then said: This is the reconciliation plan on which we have agreed, and the president of the republic must accept it and be responsible for it. This was at the time when the president of the republic was sending envoys for talks and consultations on points on which there was still disagreement.

I believe that Syria is now trying to create an atmosphere that will cover its failure in West Beirut and the southern suburbs by creating a new dispute between the Lebanese parties that will lead to the resumption of fighting on the traditional contact lines.

[*Al-Tadamun*] What are the points in the Damascus statement of which you do not approve?

[Sham'un] Where is the role of the president of the republic? Has he become a figurehead? If we talk about participation in government, where is the Christian participation? That is the question. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam [Syrian vice president] has tailored a robe for every one of them: Husayn al-Husayni [Chamber of Deputies speaker] to be elected for 4 years; Rashid Karami to be elected prime minister by the Chamber of Deputies for an indefinite period of time. If they are demanding constitutional changes, we are all demanding such changes too, provided they are compatible with the changes that have occurred in our society. These changes must go through the legitimate institutions and processes and be put to the people. We must enlighten the people and explain the new regime and its identity. [passage omitted]

Al-Jumayyil Proposes Summit With 'Arafat

NC091259 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The negotiations are over, not merely among the Lebanese parties but also between the presidential team and Syria. This is the impression observers have formulated with regard to the latest positions taken by the regime's team, represented by the president, the Lebanese Front, the Lebanese Forces, and the Phalangists. [passage omitted]

Indications of heightened tension surfaced yesterday through the Lebanese Front's stand, which is hostile to the Syrian presence and links presidential elections with the removal of this presence. Escalation was also evident in a similar position adopted by Mr Samir Ja'ja' [commander of the Lebanese Forces], who complained of a lack of unity among Christians vis-a-vis Syria.

Crowning all this was a statement attributed to President al-Jumayyil that finding a solution has been delayed because the Syrians are not ready. He added that the crisis will be resolved only through a summit meeting between him and President al-Asad, to be followed — and here is the president's surprise — by a meeting between him and Mr Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

The newspaper *Al-Safir* today quoted President Amin al-Jumayyil as saying that finding a solution has been delayed because the Syrians are not ready. He added that for this reason he has hesitated and changed his mind concerning certain reform proposals to which he had previously agreed, because the Syrians, he claims, are not in the mood to hasten finding a solution.

Al-Safir adds that Al-Jumayyil believes that the Lebanese crisis will be resolved through an agreement reached first by him and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and then through an agreement with Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Jumayyil's visitors have cited him as saying, by way of explaining his rejection of reforms: We are not a receptacle in which each party can put the demands and reforms it wants, resulting in a strange and bizarre formula. We must discuss matters positively, not by causing a confrontation on the issue of the prime minister's authorities.

Al-Jumayyil told his visitors that his latest reform paper was a response to the 5-party meeting in Damascus, which is not in line with the true Islamic position or situation. He added that when reforms are proposed, his possible acceptance or rejection must be borne in mind. Do not forget, he said, that three uprisings have taken place so far in the eastern areas. He said that when reforms are proposed we must bear in mind their repercussions; the proposals should not provoke a fourth uprising.

Israeli Helicopters Raid 'Ayn al-Hulwah Area

NC091556 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1552 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] According to our correspondent in Sidon, Israeli enemy helicopters raided the 'Ayn al-Hulwah area east of Sidon at 1735 this evening. The sound of explosions reverberated throughout the area.

According to eyewitnesses, an enemy helicopter was seen crashing after being hit by antiaircraft fire. This has not yet been confirmed.

Raid Directed at PNSF

NC091727 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1655 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The day after the coastal road was opened up to the Amal Movement and its escort of Syrian occupation forces, four Israeli helicopters raided PNSF positions to the south of 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. This resulted in an undetermined number of casualties. Fires were also started in the area. [passage omitted]

It is noteworthy that while previous Israeli raids have been targeted against positions held by Fatah, which is loyal to Yasir 'Arafat, today's attacks were on positions held by the Syrian-supported PNSF. The PNSF is currently attempting to control the situation east of Sidon, and is making strenuous efforts to this end. [passage omitted]

Raid Kills 2, Wounds 6

NC091748 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1723 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Excerpt] A formation of four Israeli Cobra helicopters attacked the Palestinian 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp at 1745 today, making it the fifth raid this year. According to a preliminary report, two people were killed and six were wounded in the raid.

The helicopters came from the direction of the sea and fired a number of rockets over the entrance to the camp, hitting several buildings. The camp's ground defenses directed antiaircraft fire at the helicopters, and Palestinian sources have said that one was downed in the 10-minute raid. Independent sources, however, have denied the claim. [passage omitted]

Israeli Gunboats Seen Off Sidon

NC100857 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Israeli gunboats have been spotted off Sidon, and Israeli aircraft flew over the city this morning. Israeli warplanes also broke the sound barrier over Beirut and the mountains during several sorties.

Israeli Planes Overfly Al-Biqa' Valley

NC091803 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] AFP today quoted security sources as saying that Israeli warplanes flew over the eastern Al-Biqa' Valley yesterday. This is the first time this year the Israelis have flown over the area, where the Syrians have been deployed since 1976. According to the same sources, Israeli helicopters flew at a low altitude over a sector running parallel to the Syrian borders, as well as over the villages of Rashayya and Hasbayya, on the edge of the security strip.

Clashes in South; 3 UNIFIL Soldiers Wounded

NC091605 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] According to reports from the south, the Israeli enemy's forces in Tallat 'Alman shelled Jisr al-Qa'qa'iyah in the Al-Nabatiyah District at 1430 this afternoon. Some shells fell near a post of the Nepalese contingent attached to UNIFIL, but no casualties have been reported so far.

According to a security source, the national resistance fighters launched two attacks at noon yesterday on a post held jointly by the Israeli and Lahd forces on Tallat al-Huqban. Three agent militiamen were wounded and transported by an enemy military helicopter to a hospital in Haifa. The occupation and agent forces then violently shelled Haris, Kafra, and Yatar, detaining a Swedish convoy for some time. This prompted the UNIFIL command to send an APC to the scene, which escorted the convoy to the Haris Township.

UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said that one Swedish and two Nepalese soldiers were wounded yesterday when they were caught in the middle of a clash between the resistance fighters on one side and the Israelis and their agents on the other. The soldiers happened to be traversing the Kafra-Yatar road when the clash was in progress. The UNIFIL command sent in an ambulance, which transported the three injured soldiers to the field hospital in Al-Naqurah.

PNSF Delegation Returns to Beirut From Sidon

NC100707 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] A PNSF delegation returned to Beirut from Sidon late last night. The delegation, which included Abu 'Ali Majdi Bsaysu, Fadl Shruru, and Abu Mahir al-Yamani, met around midnight at Syrian intelligence headquarters in Beirut in the presence of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, Colonel 'Ali Hammud, and Lieutenant Colonel [name indistinct].

According to PNSF sources, the delegation held a number of meetings and consultations in Sidon with leaders of the Nasirite Popular Organization, other Sidon politicians, and local leaders in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps. The delegation then returned with a plan from the Nasirite Popular Organization holding that the organization should bolster its forces east of Sidon and assume responsibility for these positions until the Lebanese-Palestinian talks on future relations conclude.

The leader of the Amal Movement responded to this proposal by insisting on an unconditional [Palestinian] withdrawal, with Amal taking over their positions. Minister Birri said: The Amal Movement has done more than it should have to save blood rather than waste it. Now is the time for others to act. We insist that the camps war be brought to a close with the cooperation of the Palestinian nationalists. Birri added: We will accept nothing in east Sidon short of Amal's return to its previous positions.

PNSF sources said that the Nasirite Popular Organization then withdrew its proposal and announced its willingness to accept any alternative that can be agreed upon. The sources added that 'Arafat's men cannot rebel against any decision made by the PNSF, particularly as 'Isam al-Lawh, the official in charge of 'Arafat's men, has aid that Khalil al-Wazir and [PFLP leader] George Habash on have agreed that the PFLP will have the right to represent the 'Arafat-Habash-Hawatimah alliance in the camps issue at the current stage.

Al-Shar' Returns From Arab League Meeting

JN062045 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening after heading the Syrian delegation to the 87th session of the Arab League Council. He was seen off at Tunis Airport by As'ad al-As'ad and 'Adnan 'Imran, assistant secretaries general of the Arab League, 'Umar al-Sayyid, the charge d'affaires of the Syrian delegation, and the Syrian Embassy staff in Tunis.

TISHRIN Assesses Purpose of Murphy Mideast Tour

PM070935 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 12 Mar 87 p 8

[Article by 'Ali al-Siwan: "Dialectics of Apostasy and Conspiracy"]

[Excerpts] Murphy is coming on a new tour of the region.

The U.S. Administration decided to send Murphy to the area after a meeting of U.S. Middle East ambassadors at the State Department. It can be assumed that most, if not all of these envoys proposed that Murphy make the tour to give impetus to the "peace process." Obviously, they discussed the fact that this "peace process," which would force the Arabs to come to terms with Israel, made no progress during all of Murphy's previous trips. That was true even though every facility was provided on each occasion to make progress possible!

We must not be deceived into thinking that Murphy has a task like that of Sisyphus: Each time he manages to push the rock up to the summit, it rolls back down. In fact, like any other U.S. official visiting the Arab world, Murphy attains success simply by being invited or received and scores an even greater success by talking about the possibility of a conciliation that recognizes the usurpation of Palestine and other occupied Arab territories. However, it is a still greater success to return to Washington with his head on his shoulders, since all evidence corroborated by facts shows that the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance divests any U.S. official of third party status and classifies him for what he truly is: an enemy. [passage omitted]

It is obvious that this time, as in the past, Murphy is studying the alternatives, relevant factors, available opportunities, and, most important, the latest developments.

What has now developed? This is an obvious question. The task of lifting the Arab siege imposed on the Camp David regime in Egypt has been crucial to the architects of U.S. strategy who launched the Camp David accord. It will not be possible to do this without putting obstacles in the way of the Arab nationalist trend to confuse and distract it from confronting Egyptian apostasy, its symbols, and its traps. After all the lessons the United States has learned since the collapse of the 17 May agreement [in Lebanon]—which was a precious opportunity to Arabize the Camp David accord but was wasted—the task of containing the Arab nationalist trend has now become the fundamental goal behind America's efforts to spread the Camp David cancer.

Another similar opportunity arose for the United States on the eve of the Islamic summit in Kuwait, but, as is known, Syria thwarted it.

The intention was for the Camp David regime to infiltrate the Arab League within an Islamic framework. But the process of the conference sessions, especially President al-Asad's intervention, saw to it that the resolutions were formulated in a way that did not serve the schemes of the proponents of Camp David. Washington has apparently learned something: There are distinguished positions in the Arab world that must be polarized and neutralized if the tight siege imposed on Camp David is to be shaken. [passage omitted]

GDR Education Minister Begins Official Tour

Meets With Counterpart

JN091622 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus, 9 Apr (SANA)—Higher Education Minister Kamal Sharaf today received Dr Hans Joachim Boehme, GDR minister for university and technical school affairs, and the members of his delegation, who are visiting Syria at the invitation of the Higher Education Ministry. During the meeting the two sides made a comprehensive assessment of the developing relations between the educational and university institutions in Syria and the GDR, as well as ways to reinforce bilateral cooperation. The two ministers expressed satisfaction with the good standard of cooperation in cultural and scientific fields.

Confers With Prime Minister

JN091626 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus—At 1330 today Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Hans Joachim Boehme, GDR minister for university and technical school affairs. The meeting was also attended by Higher Education Minister Kamal Sharaf and the GDR ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the visiting minister conveyed the greetings of Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers. They also discussed the relations of friendship and the strong steps for cooperation between Syria and the GDR in all fields. Ways of developing these ties and expanding their horizons were examined as well. Talks dealt with cooperation in higher education and scientific research and with the implementation of accords between the two friendly countries. Dr al-Kasm asked his guest to pass along his greetings to Mr Stoph.

Shamir, Peres React to Soviet Summit Contacts

Shamir: Conference 'Insane'

TA091754 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated this evening that the international conference is an insane notion, a notion of somebody fighting for his own destruction. An international conference might wreak a catastrophe on Israel, the prime minister stated in a rally of the Liberal Party's young generation at Zoa House in Tel Aviv. His remarks are reported by our correspondent Meron Tzur:

[Begin Shamir recording] The idea that Israel should be the initiator of an international conference, which might wreak serious disasters on it — such an idea is insane and should be dropped.

In trying to explain the source of this proposal I said to myself: Perhaps out of pessimism Mr Peres one day reached such a conclusion. If that is so, let him explain and say so. What I am actually telling him is: Drop this, we do not need it, we have other things to do. Let us drop this foolish idea and get down to the real issues. Let us deal with daily affairs, try to develop the country, maintain its security, improve its economy, and let us drop this nonsense. [end recording]

Attacks Conference Supporters

TA092024 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening made an address unprecedented in its harshness, in which he denounced the idea of an international conference and the person championing it, Shim'on Peres. It is a notion of national suicide, an insane and monstrous notion, Shamir told the Liberal Party's young generation in Tel Aviv. Shamir said that Peres apparently reached this idea after a night of nightmares. He is causing us to bow down before others and is dictating the idea of an international conference through shrewd and clandestine tactics. Our party affairs correspondent Dan Raviv provides an excerpt of Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks:

[Begin Shamir videorecording] No country in the world is prepared to place its fate in the hands of foreign countries unless it knows in advance what these countries' decision will be. We know that the Soviet Union and the Arab countries surrounding us themselves know what an international conference will decide about the borders of Eretz Yisra'el, the status of Jerusalem, and our separation from Judaea and Samaria. They know this, and thus they have every reason to support this idea. We also know these things; we know what an international conference would decide were it to convene. We know what it would decide about our borders, Jerusalem, and the status of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Therefore, only a person or people who want to lose their country, their independence, and their security will support such an international conference. We will not support it. [end videorecording]

Shamir's Office on U.S. Stance

TA090655 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] People close to the prime minister are pleased with remarks made in Washington expressing skepticism over the idea of the international conference. People in the Prime Minister's Office are saying that these remarks, including remarks by Secretary of State George Shultz, reflect the U.S. Administration's lack of belief in the idea of the conference.

Peres on Continuation of Talks

TA090620 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is to return to Israel today. He will brief Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on his talks with the Soviet representatives. At yesterday's talks issues connected with Soviet Jews, the international conference, and the future of diplomatic relations between the two countries were discussed. Tamar Golan, the *Ma'ariv* correspondent in Paris, spoke with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Rome last night.

[Begin recording] [Golan] Mr Vice Prime Minister, you are returning to Israel after meetings with Soviet representatives, meetings that have won wide coverage. What can you tell us?

[Peres] I say that it is not necessarily so, that what occurred in the past will recur in the future. The Soviet Union has changed, the world has changed, there is something to talk about, we must talk. We do not have to speak about this in sports terms of high jumping or long jumping. The terms are historic, of changes in situations. I read in *Ha'aretz* that somebody said the level of representation is low. The level of representation does not interest me. What does interest me is the level of the talk and the level of the talk definitely was high. I would be very cautious about saying we have already solved all the problems, but I do think I must say I found there is something to talk about and we can talk. As in the whole world, we will certainly not reach 100 percent agreement, but we do not need to live with 100 percent nonagreement.

[Golan] Do you have the feeling that there will be a continuation in the near future, without mentioning dates, of course?

[Peres] I think so. One way or another, but there will be a continuation.

[Golan] And the last question. Do you feel that the people you met really know the Middle East, know the problems?

[Peres] First of all, the main problem is whether one knows the Soviet Union in the current situation, and it is my impression that we do. Of course, they are well informed on matters of the Middle East, but according to what they say, they represent a new situation in the Soviet Union. [end recording]

Terms USSR Dialogue 'Serious'

AU091138 Paris AFP in English 1136 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Rome, April 9 (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said here Thursday that Israel has "started a dialogue" with the Soviet Union, which was "serious" and would be continued.

Mr. Peres has been meeting with senior Soviet officials on the sidelines of a Middle East committee of a Socialist International conference here.

The Soviet government is represented by Karen Brutents, the deputy head of the Communist Party Central Committee's foreign affairs department and his deputy Alexander Zotov.

The Israeli foreign minister said "We started a dialogue with the USSR, we shall continue it. It has been a serious dialogue."

"We covered all the pending issues, including the issue of the Jews in the USSR, which is for us of the greatest importance."

Sources close to one of the conference delegations said that Mr. Peres told the Middle East Committee that there were still three obstacles to the holding of an international conference on Middle East peace.

The sources said he outlined the obstacles as: the problem of Jews in the Soviet Union, Palestinian representation at such a conference — Israel has rejected talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization — and the mandate and length of such a conference.

Mr. Brutents and Mr. Peres held private talks here on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Their two countries have held informal talks aimed at agreeing terms for a restoration of diplomatic ties, which Moscow severed after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Moderate Palestinian representatives have also been sitting on the Socialist International Middle East Committee meeting.

Views Talks Upon Return

TA091612 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1515 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] We now go over to Ben-Gurion Airport. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has returned to Israel. Over to our political correspondent Oz Frankel:

[Begin recording] [Frankel] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has returned following a visit to Spain and Rome where, as is known, he met with two special Soviet representatives. A few minutes ago the prime minister held a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport, and one can say the atmosphere at the conference was calm and quiet. Peres did not try to settle accounts with his political rivals, and refused to divulge additional details of his talks in Rome with the two Soviet diplomats. Regarding the prime minister's statement that he hoped Peres would fail in his mission to promote an international conference, the foreign minister said: No customs duty needs to be paid on such a wish, so I did not pay anything. As to whether a breakthrough was made in the contacts, Peres said: I would not be so presumptuous as to say that, but this first contact was definitely important and direct, and I dealt with highly important matters with the Soviet representatives.

[Peres] What I can say is that I am returning encouraged by the possibility of being able to attain direct negotiations without international forces, including the Soviet Union, attempting to impose a solution upon us. This is what I have to say concerning the contents of the talks. As for the Soviet Jewry issue, it should be noted that two or three quite important changes have taken place, although not those we would like to see and certainly not to the extent we would like: The number of immigrants — or more correctly, the number of emigrants — increased from 100 to 475; six out of the eight prisoners of Zion were released; and it is almost certain that a low-level Soviet delegation will come to Israel to deal with limited matters. I do not think this is the end; I believe this is the beginning. I think we are able to do something: both to enlarge the opening that has been forged and to ensure that people come directly to Israel. As I said, I think this is the first serious and direct dialogue between us and Soviet representatives. More than that I am not prepared to say.

[Frankel] Mr Peres, in the political sphere, the head of the Middle East department in the Spanish Foreign Ministry said after you left that he was perplexed by the difference of opinions within the Israeli Government.

[Peres] What does he want? Should I send him the Guide to the Perplexed [alluding to the book by Maimonides]?

[Frankel] Can you continue to function like this? Can the national unity government continue to function in this manner?

[Peres] Yes, definitely. I do not know how every time someone finds an official here or there. I held talks with the Spanish prime minister, the Spanish monarch, and the Spanish foreign minister, and they were not perplexed. I do not know how it is that some perplexed person is always found. If someone is perplexed, so be it. It does not bother me.

[Frankel] In other words, differences of opinion within the government do not affect Israel's foreign policy?

[Peres] I think that it would be better if everyone supported it. However, as long as the peace process continues, for me this is the test. The test is not some article that is published, or a wish to succeed or fail. I believe the peace process and the opening of the gates to Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union are the two issues that matter, and I will not get dragged into secondary issues.

[Frankel] When do you plan to bring the issue of the international conference to the cabinet for a decision?

[Peres] Once again, I plan to bring the issue of direct negotiations that would be launched within the framework of an international conference — look again how things have been distorted by the way you phrased your question — the moment the subject is ready for a decision.

[Frankel] If we can judge from the foreign minister's comments, we are not on the verge of a political crisis. Tomorrow, or on the eve of Passover at the latest, the foreign minister will meet with the prime minister and brief him on his talks in Rome and Spain. Perhaps after this meeting we will know what direction the government dispute between the Alignment and the Likud over the international peace conference is taking. [end recording]

Assesses Need for Conference

TA091834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that if there is no international peace conference within the next few months, the chance for peace could be missed. Peres was speaking at Ben-Gurion Airport this afternoon on his return from a 5-day trip to Europe. At the airport was reporter Steve Weizman:

[Begin recording] [Weizman] [5-second break in transmission]...an understanding and support in his talks with both Spanish and Italian leaders and that his meeting with Soviet representatives in Rome had been particularly significant. For the first time ever they came to talk seriously about major issues for their own sake, and not merely as a publicity exercise, Peres said, adding that he found in the talks a new openness on issues which had previously been closed.

One of the subjects discussed with the Soviets was that of an international peace conference. Prime Minister Shamir has not allowed his opposition to that concept to go unnoticed. He sent Peres on his way by wishing him failure in his efforts and welcomed him home by describing the conference idea as crazed. Peres himself says he will continue to push for a conference and adds that if it is not convened within the next few months the chance for peace could slip away.

I asked Peres if the opposing signals from Israel's Government were not damaging Israel's credibility abroad.

[Peres] I'm not sure it's damaging because it is a well-known secret that Israel is a democratic country that has more than one view. So, the fact that there are two views in the country shouldn't surprise anybody. But as long as we can continue with preparing the way to peace, to maintain the process for peace, to change the fate of the Russian Jewry, it is in my judgment the two most important considerations. We are not a beauty parlor and the problem is not how we look, the problem is where do we go.

[Weizman] Peres went on to say that peace and the ingathering of ex-exiles were in his view the two main issues on the agenda of the Jewish people today and he would allow nothing to stand in the way of his efforts to solve those two problems. [end recording]

Derides Shamir Remarks

TA101005 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0945 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says that Prime Minister Shamir's remarks opposing the international conference yesterday were destructive. Our correspondent 'Oz Shelah spoke with Shim'on Peres a short time ago:

[Begin recording] [Peres] I believe that the comments made yesterday were indeed destructive.

[Shelah] What effects — if any — will these destructive comments have?

[Peres] We will deal with this issue calmly and patiently. There is no rush.

[Shelah] Can we deduce from the prime minister's criticism, which was made even before he met with you to hear about your talks abroad, that you indeed prepared the ground for the convening of an international conference?

[Peres] First, I am preparing the ground for the peace process, and the prime minister himself in the past agreed to an international accompaniment when the Israeli Government, headed by the Likud, agreed to an opening move in the framework of an international conference. I do not understand what all the fuss is about. I can also say that the peace process has good chances, we should move it forward, and there is no nightmare here. The nightmare is that we will live by our swords in a state of war. This, in my view, is the real and terrible nightmare. [end recording]

Peres Sources Detail Changes in Soviet Stance

TA100605 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Apr 87 pp 1, 19

[Report by Wolf Blitzer, David Horovitz, Jonathan Karp, and Robert Rosenberg]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In Jerusalem, sources close to Foreign Minister Peres emphasized that the Soviet Union has moved closer to the Israeli view of the international peace conference as a context for direct negotiations between the parties.

According to those sources, the two Soviet diplomats with whom Peres met in Rome at the Socialist International meetings, "expressed readiness for bilateral talks between the parties."

There were several other significant changes in Soviet policy as expressed by Soviet officials Aleksandr Zotov and Karen Brutents in their meetings with Peres and in semi-public statements they made to the Socialist International Middle East committee sessions, said the sources.

There was an unprecedented readiness on the part of the Soviets to discuss Kremlin attitudes towards Jews and Jewish emigration, said the sources, without the Soviets saying that Soviet Jewry is "an internal matter."

Furthermore, say the sources, the Soviet officials were "prepared to discuss everything."

The sources said that Peres noted that the Soviet officials had made changes in the following areas:

— They spoke against "coercion" by the superpowers or by an international conference.

— They expressed readiness for bilateral talks between the parties, in the context of the international conference.

— They spoke directly about the need for improving relations with Israel.

— While they mentioned the PLO, they phrased Palestinian representation at an international conference in more general terms as well, saying it is up to the Palestinians to pick their representatives.

Say Peres To Prevent Crisis

TA092033 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has decided at this stage to prevent a government crisis that could cause the paralysis of the political moves he has started. This was reported this evening by sources in Mr Peres' office to our political correspondent.

In reaction to Prime Minister Shamir's remarks, Minister Ya'aqov Tzur has called for the immediate dismantling of the government. Minister Tzur believes that the prime minister's speech this evening signifies demands on the Alignment to accept orders, and the Labor Party cannot be a partner to a paralyzed and dictatorial government.

Egypt's Ghali Welcomes Peres' Soviet Contacts

TA090710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Interview with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali by Aharon Barne'a, in Cairo, date not given]

[Text][Barne'a] We must do all we can to get out of the deadlock the peace process in the Middle East has gotten into, Dr Butrus Ghali told us. We cannot permit ourselves to continue in the existing situation in the Middle East crisis. Something must be done and what Shim'on Peres is doing in Rome is within this framework.

[Ghali, in English] We need a new peace process, one to reinforce the position of the moderates, the moderates inside Israel, inside Egypt, among the Palestinians, among the Arabs. Also, we have to contain radicalism in the region and I believe that through a new peace process, through...

[Barne'a, interrupting, translates, then continues] I believe that through a new peace process through an international conference we will be able to create this new impetus for the sake of peace. Dr Ghali explained that President Mubarak's latest statement that Shim'on Peres, not Yitzhaq Shamir, should be listened to on the issue of the international conference springs from the most simple reason: One supports the idea, the other is opposed to it. Egypt regards the conference as essential to continue the process, he said.

[Ghali, in English] We must not underestimate the difficulties of convening an international conference, but those difficulties are 100 percent less than the difficulties which we will have to face in the case that we continue to...

[Barne'a, interrupting, translates, then continues] We must not underestimate the difficulties of convening an international conference, but those difficulties are 100 percent less grave than the difficulties and dangers we will have to face if we continue to preserve the status quo and do nothing for peace. About what difficulties and dangers was he speaking, we asked?

[Ghali, in English] Deterioration of the situation. More radicalization and more fundamentalism in the region. You must not take the situation inside Israel...

[Barne'a, interrupts and translates] A protracted deterioration in the situation, he said. More radicalization, more fundamentalism in the region. We must not just look at the situation in Israel or at the relations between Israel and a specific country. You must take into account the situation in the entire region. We can no longer permit ourselves a continuation of the undermining of stability in the area. Therefore, he said, it is important to halt the process of the undermining of stability through a new peace process. For our part, we believe that the international conference is that new process, and we believe that the participation of the two superpowers in such a conference will give the process new impetus. What about 'Arafat's latest statements about the Palestinian representation? Does this fit in with the position of Egypt and Jordan? I do not want to react to that, Dr Ghali said, because that issue is a matter for the Palestinians themselves. Nevertheless?

[Ghali, in English] The Palestinians have to decide what they want and we will support their position.

[Barne'a] The Palestinians must decide what they want and we will support their decision. We will also support Jordan's position and do everything we can to reinforce the agreement achieved in February 1986 between Husayn and 'Arafat.

Helicopters Attack 'Terrorist' Lebanese Targets

TA091601 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1557 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Israeli Air Force assault helicopters attacked terrorist targets wouth of Sidon this afternoon. This is reported by the IDF spokesman. All the helicopters returned safely and the pilots reported accurate hits on the targets.

Our military correspondent Gay Zohar adds that during the attack the helicopters drew fire from the ground, and they returned the fire. The targets attacked were three buildings on the outskirts of the 'Ayn al-Hulwa refugee camp, which served as headquarters of the terrorist organizations. As said, all the helicopters returned safely.

'Hundreds' Riot in Majdal Shams; Police Wounded

TA100822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Hundreds of Druze are rioting in the village of Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights in reaction to damage caused to the statue of Sultan al-Atrash, unveiled only a week ago. Our correspondent Shulamit Shmerling reports that early this morning a loud blast was heard in the center of the village, and rumors immediately spread that the statue had been damaged. Hundreds of residents gathered around the statue, and police forces which were alerted to the scene were met by a rioting crowd and a shower of stones. Several policemen were wounded, among them the commander of the Qiryat Shemona police station. They are currently being treated.

It is not yet known how the statue was hit; our correspondent was told that a truck may have slid on the road and accidentally hit it. The rioters are preventing the police forces from examining the statue.

The HADASH Knesset faction has called on the prime minister and the police affairs minister to immediately investigate the events and detain those who damaged the statue.

ALGERIA

PDRY Foreign Minister Arrives in Algiers 7 Apr

Brings Al-Bid Message

LD072137 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Politburo and foreign minister of the PDRY, arrived this afternoon in Algiers. At the airport VIP lounge, the PDRY foreign minister made a brief statement in which he said: I am conveying a written message to His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid from his brother the Yemeni president [as heard] related to many subjects, mainly bilateral relations, the changes in the Arab world in general, and the Palestinian problem in particular. [passage omitted]

Received by Bendjedid 8 Apr

LD091115 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid today received PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, who conveyed a message from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni Socialist Party secretary general, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries as well as other issues of mutual interest. The audience was also attended by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, and the PDRY ambassador to Algeria.

LIBYA

USSR's Vorontsov Arrives in Tripoli 8 Apr

LD081548 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Apr (JANA) — USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on an official visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Gives Gorbachev Letter to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD082018 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received a letter from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, secretary general of the CPSU. The letter was delivered by Yuliy Vorontsov, personal envoy of our friend Gorbachev, when he was received by the leader in the presence of the director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department; Eng Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison; and the USSR ambassador to the great Jamahiriyah. [video shows al-Qadhdhafi receiving Soviet envoy]

Affirms USSR's 'Full Solidarity'

LD090906 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Apr, JANA — USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov has affirmed the Soviet Union's full solidarity with the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in their defiance of the imperialist onslaught directed against their revolutionary choices of freedom and progress.

In a statment to JANA he condemned imperialist interference in Chad, stressing that the Soviet Union regards this intervention as something directed against the revolutionary gains of the Libyan Arab people, and that it seeks to escalate tension in the region to achieve imperialism's goals of hegemony.

The Soviet first deputy foreign minister added that imperialism, and primarily the United States, was trying to bring pressure to bear on the Great Jamahiriyah to undermine its revolutionary achievements. He went on to say that imperialism uses every means to achieve this, from direct military aggression against the Libyan people to military escalation around its borders.

Vorontsov also praised relations between the Soviet Union and the Great Jamahiriyah and said the two countries were working to extend the scope of cooperation between them to encompass various fields. He added that the two sides attached great importance to the coordination of their stands with regard to nuclear disarmament and the establishment of a nuclear-free world.

Met by Foreign Liaison Chief

LD091151 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, 9 April JANA — Eng Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, met this morning with Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov, who is currently on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. The relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries and ways to develop them on all levels were discussed during this meeting.

Ends Visit, Departs Tripoli 10 Apr

LD101119 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT
10 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Apr (JANA) — Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning after the end of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Turkish Parliamentary Delegation Pays Visit

Arrives in Tripoli 6 Apr

LD071039 Tripoli JANA in English 0925 GMT
7 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr 7, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — A Turkish parliamentary delegation headed by the deputy speaker of Parliament, Iskendar Cenab Ege, arrived yesterday in Tripoli on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

The head of the delegation expressed pleasure and happiness and those of members of the delegation at the opportunity to visit great Jamahiriyah. He said in a statement to JANA, "We in Turkey highly admire the achievements realized by the [words indistinct] people in various fields and this visit will enable us to see them closely. [no end quotation marks as received]

The head of the delegation lauded the strong relations linking Great Jamahiriyah and Turkey.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi 8 Apr

LD091513 Tripoli JANA in English 1419 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr 9, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The leader of the revolution received yesterday the parliamentary and popular Turkish delegation headed by Iskendar Cenab Ege the deputy leader of the House of Representatives in the Republic of Turkey.

The delegation conveyed to the leader the regards of the people, government and president of Turkey.

The delegation expressed to the leader his [as received] deploration of the unsuccessful barbaric American assault which was targeted towards the leader personally and his family.

The members of the delegation were moved when they visited the leader's home and saw the after effects of that assault.

The parliamentary and popular Turkish delegation praised, in their meeting with the leader, the huge developments in all fields of life achieved by the Libyan people through the great 1st September revolution.

Ankara on Al-Qadhdhafi Meeting

TA090719 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 0430 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The Turkish parliamentary delegation currently visiting Libya is continuing its contacts in Tripoli. The delegation headed by Iskendar Cenab Ege, a Turkish Grand National Assembly speaker, has called on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. According to a report from Turkish Radio and Television correspondent Birkac Aslan, Turkish-Libyan relations and various international issues were discussed during the meeting held in Al-Qadhdhafi's residence in Tripoli.

In a statement during the meeting, Ege said that Turkey and Libya, which are bound by historic ties, should exert efforts for the preservation of world peace. In turn, the Libyan leader said that the peoples of the two countries waged their struggles in the past under the same banner, adding that relations between his country and Turkey will be strengthened through this common history.

The Turkish parliamentary delegation is expected to continue its meetings in Libya today.

YAR Official Arrives on Official Visit

LD061452 Tripoli JANA in English 1410 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr 6, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Mr Salih 'Abbad al-Khulani, member of the Permanent Committee in Yemen Arab Republic has arrived in Tripoli this morning heading a Yemeni delegation on an official visit to great Jamahiriyah and the General People's Congress in his country.

He has also paid tribute to the promotion of the brotherly bilateral relations stressing that they are being strengthened continuously.

Delivers Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD090856 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 08 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Apr JANA — The brother leader of the revolution today received Brother Salih 'Abbad, assistant secretary of the Permanent Committee of the General Popular Conference in North Yemen, and the delegation accompanying him. Brother 'Abbad handed the brother leader a message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The meeting was also attended by Dr Muftah al-Usta 'Umar, secretary of the General People's Congress [as received]. The Yemeni delegation arrived in Tripoli to attend meetings of the Basic People's Conferences in their first session this year.

Further on Burkina Faso President's Visit

Attends Fete With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD081450 Tripoli JANA in English 1100 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr 8, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The leader of the revolution together with Thomas Sankara, president of the National Council of Revolution in Burkina Faso Jamahiriyah, attended the big students' festival held at the People's Hall in Tripoli to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the students' revolution which took place on the 7th April 1976.

The student masses asserted in their revolutionary slogans their complete dedication to continue the realisation of the 7th April objectives and to support the causes of freedom worldwide, and to courageously confront imperialism and Zionism.

The student masses hailed in their slogans the African revolutionary Thomas Sankara and the revolution in Burkina Jamahiriyah, acknowledging that the Great Jamahiriyah is strongly on the move to liberate Africa from the colonial and imperial domination and hegemony.

Departs Tripoli 7 Apr

LD091251 Tripoli JANA in English 0808 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr 9, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Colonel Thomas Sankara, the chairman of the National Command

Council of the revolution in Burkina Jamahiriyah left Tripoli on Tuesday [7 April] evening at the end of a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

At Tripoli International Airport, he was seen off by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, the secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison [as received] and a number of officers from the Libyan Arab Armed Forces.

Colonel Thomas Sankara told JANA that his visit to great Jamahiriyah came as a confirmation of the solidarity in struggle between the Libyan Arab people and the people of Burkina. 'With all pleasure, I noticed that all things in Great Jamahiriyah are extremely excellent.

'The revolution goes on both the masses and the leadership levels. It was clear that what the imperialist and Western press publish is nothing but lies and misinformation.'

He added: 'We are very happy as we are returning home to be sure that all is well in Libya contrary to what the Western press say.'

Pakistan's Ziaul Haq Answers Al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD071308 Tripoli JANA in English 1104 GMT
7 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr 7, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan expressed his deep gratitude and thanks to the leader of the revolution for the latter's letter to him calling for lessening of tension between Pakistan and India.

The Pakistani president informed the leader of the revolution that tension on the borders of the two countries was diffused and that the two parties resorted to restraint and judicious dialogue.

President Zia asserted the commitment of his country to the principles of good neighbourliness based on cooperation with India for the mutual interest of the two countries and relations amongst states.

The Pakistani president pointed in his letter to the leader of the revolution that a number of steps were taken to consolidate peace and security in the south of India.

Directing his words to the leader of the revolution, President Ziaul Haq said "I am confident that with the support of those with good intentions, like yourself, our efforts shall succeed."

Algerian President Answers Al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD090928 Algiers APS in English 1030 GMT
8 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, 08/04/87 (APS) — Alternate Ambassador to Libya Abdelkader Hadjar was received by the leader of the Libyan revolution, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to whom he gave a message from President Chadli Bendjedid.

The message bears on the ongoing efforts for the unification of the Palestinian resistance ranks and the problem of security in Africa and the Mediterranean.

JANA Commentary Views U.S. Claims in Pacific

LD081925 Tripoli JANA in English 1754 GMT
8 Apr 87

[quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr 8, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Every now and then, U.S. and Zionist agents in the Pacific region make official and press claims, within the framework of an organised campaign, talking about what they called 'the growing Libyan presence in the current situation there.

In their campaign, they went as far as to call on the U.S. Administration to fill in the vacuum which, as they claim, was manipulated by the Soviet Union and Libya in the region.

JANA's domestic affairs editor commented by saying: 'This campaign is exposed in intentions and in dimensions and above being organised by the U.S. Administration and the Zionists, it was confirmed by statements made by Australia's prime minister in this respect amid a gathering of pro-Zionists in Melbourne last night. This campaign drives us to assert that 2 aims lie behind it at least in this stage:

First — That pours in the mainstream of the U.S.-Zionist campaign of misleading of public opinion and to distort the image of the great Al-Fatih revolution and its relation with the free peoples which struggle for freedom and independence and the firm attitude of Libya in confronting colonialism and imperialism and defend liberty wherever it may be. [sentence as received] This is the attitude that the U.S. Administration and the Zionist did not hide their annoyance from for being a real danger to the imperialist-Zionist scheme and its dreams of domination and expansion. [sentence as received]

Second — The organisers of that hysterical campaign aim to create an international outcry to create conditions for justifying the anticipated large-scale military concentration in that region. In this respect, the announcement of the U.S. war department of its intention to transfer the Marine support forces for military operation — including the sending of nuclear ships from the southern Arctic region to Australia. [sentence as received]

This comes also in coincidence with the decision by the French Government to concentrate its military presence in the region apart from the more than 8,000 French troops stationed at the Island of New Caledonia, as was stated by the French war minister himself, and France's insistance on continuing its nuclear tests in the region and acts to tighten its grip on the sea lanes there.'

The editor concluded by saying:

'U.S. and Zionist agents in the Pacific region did not hesitate in voicing the source of their concern about the Libyan presence in the region as being Great Jamahiriyah's establishment of diplomatic relations with independent states there and the approval of those states to the opening of Libyan Arab bureaus in their capitals. They pointed out to the material and moral support Great Jamahiriyah pledges to offer to those states to carry out their development plans within the context of the mutual economic cooperation between both sides. At the same time they ignore the imperialist flooding of the region by building land military bases, movements of nuclear war fleets, the consolidation of the colonial presence, the supression of the nations that fight colonialism, and the continuation of the series of nuclear testsdespite the rejection and condemnation from the nations of the region to that what calls for amazement and ridicule is that they consider such a matter may lead to entering the region into the zone of international tension and conflict and the hell of the expected nuclear destiny, as being a natural matter that does not need caution or warning against. [sentence as received] At the same time they see with all meanness that the establishment of relations between free sovereign states and in accordance with what the international community has approved in charters and regulations in this respect, as being a reason to shout loudly and recruit a local and international campaign to warn against it.

As a whole, those states has [as received] the freedom, the sovereignty and the international legitimacy to choose who they establish reactions [as received] with. They did not appoint any side to guide them in the issue of choosing their friends or approving their foreign policies or domestic policies.

As apart from that, anything is a flagrant, undisguised and rejected interference in the affairs of those states.'

MOROCCO

Tunisian Prime Minister Sfar Continues Visit

Laraki Hosts Banquet

LD081036 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The Moroccan and Tunisian prime ministers have emphasized their countries' determination to continue cooperation at all levels between the two fraternal peoples and endeavor to instill the idea of building a great Arab Maghreb around which the peoples and leaders of the region can rally. This came in the speeches exchanged by the prime ministers during a dinner banquet hosted by Dr Azzedine Laraki in honor of his Tunisian counterpart. [passage omitted] At the beginning of his address, Dr Azzedine Laraki expressed his hope that the Tunisian prime minister's visit, which is his first visit to our country since he took office, will be another positive step in a series of planned meetings aimed at consolidating the cooperation between the two countries and deepening the ties of fraternity and amity, which emphasize their close relations and implements the ambitions of the leaders of the two counties, His Majesty King Hassan II and President Habib Bourguiba. The prime minister emphasized that the choice made by Morocco and Tunisia of the free and democratic way and their reliance on the open dialogue policy constitute a fundamental factor in the similarity characterizing the positions of the two countries on many issues, and is a firm guarantee to promote this similarity into united positions to defend the same principles and reach the same goals.

From this point, Dr Laraki said our views are obvious concerning the affairs of our region and our joint endeavor to eliminate all that can obstruct the path to security, calm, and development, and all that makes the spread of concord possible in the vastness of the region and enhances the ties of its unity. The prime minister said to this effect that the building of the Great Arab Maghreb is a great idea, which the leaders and the peoples of the region are equally rallying around, and is a noble aspiration. He also expressed his hope that the unity of the Arab Maghreb would be the first brick in building the unity of the southern shore of the Mediterranean Basin stretching from the Atlantic shore to the limits of the Red Sea. The prime minister emphasized that in spite of the fact that the future of our region constitutes our main concern, this does not distract us from the important issues facing the Arab and Islamic nation and the African Continent. He emphasized the solidarity of the Moroccan people with the Palestinian people, renewing Morocco's call to lift the siege on the camps. He also tackled the dangers of the Iran-Iraq war and Morocco's unconditional support of the South African and Namibian peoples. Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki expressed his full satisfaction with the unity of views characterizing Morocco's and Tunisia's stances in dealing with these issues and other international issues, such as making a peaceful area of the Mediterranean region and opposition to all forms of terrorism. Finally Dr Azzedine Laraki emphasized anew the two countries' attachment to their own traditions as they search for the most efficient ways to modernize their societies. The prime minister hailed the development path followed by Tunisia under the leadership of President Habib Bourguiba.

Receives 'Highest' Medal From King

LD081058 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Excerpt] In Marrakech, Prime Minister Rachid Sfar conferred yesterday with King Hassan II of Morocco, and had lengthy talks with him lasting an hour and 10 minutes, during which King Hassan II decorated the prime minister with the highest grade of the Aaoui Medal, the highest decoration in the Moroccan Kingdom.

Following the audience, Rachid Sfar made a statement in which he expressed thanks for the honor bestowed on him at his accompanying delegation. He noted that he conveyed to the Moroccan King a message of affection and consideration from the Supreme Combatant President Habib Bourguiba, and he had also renewed the president's invitation of his majesty and his royal highness the Crown Prince to pay a visit to Tunisia.

Rachid Sfar stressed that King Hassan II entrusted him with warm greetings and the sentiments of respect and consideration to the supreme combatant and his wishes for good health so as to continue his successful endeavor to achieve more progress and prosperity for Tunisia and to reinforce the brotherly relations of cooperation between Morocco and Tunisia and to build the great Maghreb. [passage omitted]

Praises Talks in Morocco

LD090843 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Marrakech, April 8 (MAP) — Visiting Tunisian Premier [Rachid Sfar] said he was "very optimistic" as to prospects for the larger Arab Maghreb. Sfar told the press at the end of his meeting with King Hassan II of Morocco that he had conveyed the Moroccan sovereign a personal message from President Habib Bourguiba.

Talking about his talks with Moroccan officials, the Tunisian premier said all meetings agreed to step up efforts in order to "boost bilateral cooperation and help build the larger Arab Maghreb." He underlined convergence of views on inter-Maghreban cooperation and the setting up of a Maghreban common market.

The Tunisian premier also disclosed that he has extended the Moroccan sovereign and Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed an invitation on behalf of President Bourguiba to visit Tunisia.

Signs Protocol, Departs 8 Apr

LD090847 Rabat MAP in English 1247 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Marrakech, April 8 (MAP) — Tunisian Premier Rachid Sfar and accompanying delegation left here Wednesday after a two day official visit to Morocco during which he was received by King Hassan II of Morocco.

Prior to departure, Sfar and peer Azzedine Laraki signed a protocol agreement aimed at upgrading trade and industry cooperation between the two countries. This agreement provides for a comprehensive program blending economic, trade, cultural and educational issues to pave the way to the building of the larger Arab Maghreb.

The setting up of joint ventures with the participation of the private sectors in the two countries and a Moroccan-Tunisian chamber of trade and industry are also provided for in this program.

Mauritanian Minister Ends Visit, Departs 8 Apr

LD090848 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Marrakech, 8 Apr MAP — Mauritanian Interior Minister Djibril Ould Abdellah, left Marrakech this morning following a visit to Morocco that included an audience with King Hassan II.

The Mauritanian official stated that he conveyed a message to the Moroccan monarch from Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, head of state of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

TUNISIA

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Begins Visit 6 Apr

To Discuss Investments

LD071928 Kuwait KUNA in English 1728 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis April 7 (KUNA) — Kuwait's Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi Tuesday arrived here at the begining of a tour in the Arab Maghreb area during which he will confer with officials on [word indistinct] enhancing ties.

On arrival, Al-Kharafi stated that he is here to attend meetings of the joint Tunisian-Kuwaiti committee that will discuss investment, financial and economic issues adding that the visit is an opportunity for reviewing and assessing joint work.

While in Tunisia, al-Kharafi and his accompanying delegation will discuss future of the Kuwaiti investments and projects here and ways of boosting economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Kuwait and Tunisia are bound by a number of agreements in various spheres. Joint projects implemented through the Kuwaiti-Tunisian development group total about 0.4 billion Tunisian dinars with Kuwait shares in the joint investments standing at 0.22 billion Tunisian dinars.

Tuesday evening, Al-Kharafi meets with the Tunisian Planning and Finance Minister Ismail Khelil followed by a dinner banquet to be held in his honor.

The Kuwaiti minister's programme includes meetings with President Habib Bourguiba, premier Rachid Sfar and other ministers during which economic and financial matters will be tackled. He is scheduled to tour a number of provinces for sight seeing.

After his four-day visit, which comes in response to an invitation from the Tunisian planning and finance minister, AL-Kharafi and his accompanying delegation will proceed to Algeria and Morocco.

Received by Sfar 8 Apr

LD091507 Tunis TAP in English 1215 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis, 9 Apr (TAP) — Prime Minister Rachid Sfar yesterday received Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad Al-Kharafi in the presence of Ismail Khelil, minister of finance and economy, Slaheddine Ben Mbarek, minister of industry and trade, and the two countries' ambassadors. Al-Kharafi stated that the meeting dealt with Tunisian-Kuwaiti cooperation in the field of financial and economic cooperation in the light of the current Tunisian-Kuwaiti joint committee talks. The Kuwaiti finance minister added that the development of bilateral cooperation and ways to extend and support it were discussed.

President Receives Iraq's 'Aziz, Message

JN061449 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Tunis, 6 Apr (INA) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba has received a message from President Saddam Husayn. It was conveyed by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during his meeting with Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba here today.

In a press statement afterward, the Iraqi official said the message deals with Iraq's welcome of Tunisia's sound and daring decision in response to the Iranian regime's attempt to hurt the Tunisian people and fraternal Tunisia. He added that the message also contained Iraq's absolute support for Tunisia and its desire to establish strong fraternal relations between the two countries. In addition, it expressed the appreciation of Iraq and President Saddam Husayn's appreciation for the fraternal positions taken by Tunisia — president, government, and people — in support of their Iraqi brothers in their legitimate defense of their sovereignty.

'Aziz pointed out that Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba asked him to convey his warm greetings, pride, and wishes for victory to President Saddam Husayn. He said: I was pleased with my meeting with His Excellency President Bourguiba.

Bourguiba Receives Sudanese, French Officials

LD061354 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Excerpts] President Bourguiba has received Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin Yusuf al-Hindi, Sudan's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

President Bourguiba also met with Claude Cheysson, member of the EC committee in charge of Mediterranean policy and North-South relations. [passage omitted]

Claude Cheysson made a statement in which he said: I was greatly honored to be received by President Bourguiba, who likes to see me whenever I visit Tunisia at the Tunisian Government's invitation. I am most grateful to his excellency for that. This brings back some very old memories that President Bourguiba is quite fond of, particularly those relating to the era of President Mendez-France, when I was his office director. I got to know the future president of Tunisia at that time. Naturally, we raised with the president those issues I intend to discuss with the government.

Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk said the president had asked him to carry out a mission with the European Parliament, which involves contacts with that Parliament's responsible officials in the broader context of Tunisian-European relations.

Omani Minister Meets Bourguiba, Leaves for SFRY

JN061414 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] His Excellency Tunisian President Bourguiba this morning received [Omani] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Ali Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, who conveyed to him greetings and good wishes from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. The Tunisian president asked his excellency the minister to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty Sultan Qabus. They discussed bilateral ties and looked into ways to boost relations in various spheres. They also discussed matters of common interest.

On the Omani side the meeting was attended by the ambassador of the sultanate to Tunisia, while on the Tunisian side it was attended by the foreign minister.

The minister of state has since left Tunis for Belgrade for talks with Yugoslav officials on ways to boost bilateral cooperation. Accompanying his excellency on the visit are Foreign Ministry officials and the sultanate's nonresident ambassador in Belgrade.

GDR Media Reports on Oskar Fisher's Visit

For GDR media reportage on the visit of GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer, including reports on talks and dinner toasts, see the German Democratic Republic section of the 6 April Eastern Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

SOMALIA

DFSS Claims Responsibility for Mogadishu Bombing

EA081954 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali
to Somalia 1700 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Reports from Mogadishu say that guerrilla units of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] were behind the recent explosion in the city. The information notes that DFSS fighters planted an explosive device that killed one person and injured a few others. The attack was carried out at the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications at the beginning of April. The building was seriously damaged. The DFSS guerrilla force says it will continue its fight for justice as long as General Mohamed Siad Barre, who is responsible for acts against the people, remains in power.

TANZANIA

Prices, Import Duties Raised To Cover Deficit

EA080847 Dar Es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili
1900 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The government has announced emergency measures to cover a deficit of more than 3 billion shillings in the 1986-87 budget, which runs until June of this year. The new measures provide for immediate increases in the prices of beer, cigarettes, soda, and spirits. According to the new measures announced a short while ago by Ndugu Cleopa Msuya, minister for finance, planning, and economic affairs, there will be a slight rise in duties on such imported goods as cigarettes, soap, beer, spirits, toothpaste, cooking oils, light bulbs, and cutlery.

The sales tax on telephone and telex services has also gone up by 10 percent. In addition, Minister Msuya noted that foreign importers living abroad — that is, those who bring in their merchandise and leave immediately after they have sold it — will be charged a sales tax equivalent to 30 percent of the total customs duty paid on the goods.

Minister Msuya also said the government will streamline the system of tax collection, adding that stringent measures will be taken to control the collection of customs duties. This, he explained, will include the punishment of government officials who deliberately undercharge on customs duties.

He said these steps were taken due to the decline in the industrial sector. This was caused by the frequent interruption of electricity and water supplies, as well as the delay in the import of industrial raw materials resulting from the late release of foreign exchange by donor countries.

UGANDA

Museveni Speech to National Resistance Council

EA090952 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1155 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Speech by President Yoweri Museveni at the opening of the National Resistance Council in Kampala — live]

[Excerpts] Honorable members of the National Resistance Council [NRC]: I welcome you all to this session of the NRC as a legislature. As you know, in the second part of 1986 we experienced a resurgence of the rearguard actions of the defeated moribund, sectarian, and [word indistinct] elements. These are the elements that have caused untold suffering to the people of Uganda, violated the sovereignty of the people of Uganda. These moribund forces thought that their rearguard actions amounted to a decisive counterattack. Their plans last August and ever since were to capture Gulu, Kitgum, and Lira and thereafter capture Karuma, Soroti and on to Kampala. This is proved by the prisoners and documents we captured.

Of course, nothing of the sort has happened or can happen. Instead, the bandit forces have been badly mauled and in many instances annihilated. To date 3,000 enemies or bandits have been confirmed killed by our forces, and 2,000 weapons of various calibers captured from the bandit forces in Kitgum, Gulu, and Lira areas alone. Great successes have been scored in Teso and Karamoja areas against cattle raiders. The attempts to destabilize Samia area by FOBA [Force Obote Back Again] elements operating out of Kenya have been contained by, among other things, setting up local defense units to supplement the Army. The attempt by FOBA to set up a base in the Ruwenzori Mountains suffered a crippling blow when our forces promptly killed one (?Baluku) who had moved to the mountains to start bandit activities there.

In Kampala area we have continued to arrest car thieves, counterfeiters of money etc, etc. On the borders we have netted many smugglers, although there have been incidents of smuggling, or assisting smugglers, by some of our own soldiers.

We have, however, arrested quite a number of soldiers because of such deviations. Recently we arrested quite a number of officers and soldiers from the (?46th) Battalion operating in areas of Mbarara and Kabale. Therefore, in spite of the fact that the NRA [National Resistance Army] faced challenges when it was still in its infancy, in its new role of guarding national frontiers, the whole population of Uganda, the economy and the infrastructure, as well as playing the role of the police, we have aquitted ourselves admirably.

This mission now, therefore, is to strengthen and modernize the Armed Forces so that it becomes abundantly clear to the different opportunistic elements that playing at war or instigating insecurity is a very risky business indeed. Clarification of that point is very, very important, because if we continue to have elements who think that war is a business, that because Museveni went to the bush with 27 people and he came and captured power, that therefore anybody can make it a business, you shall have a lot of problems. [passage omitted]

In spite of continued limitations in several aspects, this message has been ably delivered to those who have taken up arms against the revolutionary path of saving Uganda from [words indistinct] neocolonial elements. In the meantime, the NRA is [words indistinct] arrangements to ensure that all elements of insecurity are wiped out. There is absolutely no reason why anybody should resort to violence. If he has got any legitimate political demand we are always ready to discuss any political problem. Indeed we have accommodated many political tendencies at the level of national government by forming a very broad-based administration.

At the grassroots level we have caused people to elect representatives of their choice. The process of electing will soon control the district councils. We are giving real powers to these grassroots organs. [passage omitted]

Can taking up arms against this process be for legitimate aspirations to be accommodated, because we can only accommodate legitimate aspirations? We cannot accommodate robber aspirations. Politically, for instance, if a robber thinks that we can accommodate him, call a roundtable conference with him so that he stops robbing, then it becomes very, very difficult. We can't. There is a boundary between the accommodatable interests and the unaccommodatable interests, politically speaking. Must blood be shed so that somebody eats? The NRM [National Resistance Movement] waged an armed struggle to end, among other things, the use of government positions to eat. Eat is — those who don't know what eating means — it is used here in the vernacular to mean using office to enrich yourself. [passage omitted]

We waged an armed struggle to bring a propeople system into being. In spite of the hardships we can point to the incipient features of such a system. Although we have got problems, we think that the measures we have taken can be seen as incipient elements of this system we envisage. For instance, committees: These committees are real democracy. Those who are talking of democracy, this is the real democracy. Not democracy by manipulation, it is the democracy of the people, direct. They choose their own people whom they want to represent them. Anticorruption moves, respect for human rights, new economic concepts, and so on and so forth. I refer to these as incipient features of the new economic and social order which I talked about last year when we took over, which I called the fundamental changes.

Therefore, those interests which oppose this process of change are illegitimate and they must be crushed by force since they have chosen the path of violence in their quest to serve wrong interests.

It is sheer opportunism and myopia to allow oneself to be blackmailed by those who are using guns to promote sectarianism to defend themselves against criminal proceedings in court. Imagine, because I don't want to be tried for a crime I committed I take up arms so that I don't come to court. Then you hear people saying that I should be called to a roundtable conference so that I be excused from the crime which I fear to face in court. [passage omitted]

So, those who want to defend themselves against criminal proceedings in court, or promote parasitic business interests, e.g., the attempt to stop us from using the railway and force us to use the roads, because these are the elements behind this insecurity. [sentence as heard] Those who want to sell air to the ministries, if we stop them selling air to the ministries then there must be a war. Selling air — those who don't know what we are talking about — is when — you, the Ugandans, they know but foreigners may not know — selling air means the government pays you for deliveries you did not make. You pretend that you sold maize to the Ministry of Defense but there is no maize, instead the Ministry of Defense pays you falsely. That is what they call selling air.

Some are also saying that if elements of the middle class from certain localities are not given big jobs then peasants in those areas should be manipulated to wage war. Or that if policemen are screened out of the police force because they were recruited contrary to the Police Act or regulations, then they should start a war so that the rest of society can be blackmailed into having a roundtable conference with them. So, policemen who are screened out for being improperly in the police, those must start a war and then we must hold a roundtable conference with them. This type of reasoning is not only frivolous but criminal. [passage omitted]

Turning to the economy, everybody knows that the situation we inherited was pathetic, and of course it was created by the people like Obote and his friends who say they want to come back to power. This pathetic economic situation we are talking about was created by the same fellows who say they want to come back to power. Come back to power to do what? What did you do in the past when you had power? It is just incredible. How can you even entertain such a stupidity?

Nevertheless, we set in motion a program of rational and frugal utilization of the scarce foreign earnings in our treasury. Foreign currency was only to be used for items on the priority list. Considerable savings were also made on several fronts, e.g. transport, where we have to choose to allow foreign and local interests to steal $96 from the state for every ton of coffee transported to the sea. We have refused. We have said that we are not going to allow anybody to steal $96 for every ton of coffee transported to the sea.

That is why we hear we are being abused all over the place. Some people want to steal this $96. We have got $96 on every ton of coffee, to transport the coffee from here to the sea, and some people want to steal it. We do not allow them to steal it because there is a war, the legitimate one, that is all. This is a legitimate war, a just war, this is the type of war I do not mind fighting because it is a justified war. It is a war for justice. It is a war for progress.

The venomous press campaign in some papers outside Uganda is largely due to this declaration by us of stop thief. That's what we mean. Stop thief. These measures of frugality and rejection of exploitation have meant that in spite of our having to pay annual debts of $200 million thanks to the corruption of Milton Obote and his rotten gangs who were allocating themselves $3 million every week — imagine, $3 million every week allocating themselves under these what they used to call one of the windows, which meant their window, the window for themselves — in spite of all these constraints we have been able to do the following in the past 14 months, completely on the basis of self-reliance. In spite of having to pay this $200-million debt to the people who lent the money to Obote wrongly, we have been able to do the following on the basis of self-reliance:

1. We have restored Uganda Airlines to the skies, which was grounded, as you know, and we had to pay for this, of course.

2. We have partially rehabilitated Mulago Hospital, partially, and even bought a few new equipments.

3. Paid for partial rehabilitation of a host of factories. [passage omitted]

4. We have paid our share in the complete rehabilitation of big factories like Lugazi Sugar Works. [passage omitted]

5. We have made arrangements for the importation of hundreds of trucks, of which about 100 have already arrived in the country. [passage omitted]

6. We have made arrangements for the importation of hundreds of tractors. [passage omitted]

7. We have paid downright payment cash proportion of some very important barter deals. [passage omitted]

8. Purchased hundreds of trucks for the NRA as well as capital weapons and fastgoing items; we bought them for cash.

9. Maintained the small inflow of petroleum products by paying $6 million every month. The shortage experienced recently was due to the sabotage of the wagon ferry at Jinja. So it is not so much that there is no petrol in the country. [passage omitted] This constant inflow of petroleum is in spite of the fact that the big portion of it is being exported illegally to neighboring countries, so we are not only importing for ourselves petroleum, we are also importing for our neighbors, illegally though. If petroleum goes, everything goes. So this $6 million we are paying every week [as heard] is not just for Uganda, it is for our neighbors.

10. Paid for some important consumer goods, although these have been very inadequate. [passage omitted]

11. Paid for other imported agricultural inputs other than tractors, e.g., hoes, drugs, etc.

12. We have already paid for a big number of four-wheel drive pickups and Land Rovers for government officials. [passage omitted]

13. Internally we have distributed food to millions of displaced persons and graded some roads.

All this has been on the basis of the self-reliance and in spite of the onerous debt of $200 million which we pay every year. The major point to note here is that all this has been possible in spite of so many constraints as shown above because of the following reasons. This is the main point I am trying to drive home.

A. Proper prioritization of matters to be dealt with. Earlier on, during our term in office, the economic planners were still in the habit of scattering resources thin over so many projects and not giving sustained inflow to industry in terms of raw materials. This, however, we have criticized, and I hope it has stopped. Focusing decisively on a sector and ensuring that it does have to relax is the hallmark of good management.

B. So proper prioritization is what has enabled us to do these little things I am talking about. To ensure that foreign exchange resources are not used primarily for personal or private interests of some elements, as used to happen in the past. Because what used to happen in the past was personal interest or private interest were paramount in deciding the use of foreign exchange, while in our case we put the public interest to be paramount, to be primary. The personal interest can also be served incidentally, not as the main point. If you happen to gain, very good, but first and foremost we plan the use of this foreign money on the basis of the public interest, on the basis of the gain to the whole economy.

Whether you will make a heavy profit or not is secondary. If you make it it would be incidental, it would not have been our primary consideration. Now this thing has been very important, that is why we are able to talk of the few things I am talking about to you. If we had followed the old line we would not even be paying for petroleum.

There is always pressure by elements of the business sector to be allocated foreign currency regardless of the consequences to the whole economy. I am sure you are all besieged by friends and relatives and what who want foreign exchange for this and for that, and I hope you are successfully resisting that pressure, because if you do not, then you put yourselves out of the broad framework I am talking about. You join the other groups in the bush.

These pressures have been resisted. I want all officials dealing with policy changes to discipline themselves, discipline from these schemes of misusing foreign earnings. Nevertheless, good efforts have been made to control the use of foreign exchange, since, as already pointed out above, a lot of savings have been made by rejecting the parasitic trading arrangements of the past, e.g., the use of the road rather than the railway, the use of the commission agents rather than dealing directly with the factories. This has always been a problem. The factory of Mercedes-Benz is known. If you ask me, I will tell you where the factory is, in Stuttgart. But you need a commission agent to show you where the factory is, and that man must charge you an additional 10 percent. What for? What has he done? I know where the factory is. Why pay this man?

So these have been the ways in which we have been squandering resources. And by stopping some of these loopholes we have been able to save little quantities of money which we have been able to use as I have just indicated above. So the main point I am making here is that with frugal use of resources we can do much more. If we could do these little things I am talking about here with very little resources which remain to us after we have paid the huge $200-million debt to those who have lent money for Obote, how much more could we have done if we did not have that budget?

As pointed out earlier, by rejecting these criminal acts by the historically irrelevant so-called business parasites, you see the business class must decide whether it is historically relevant or not. A business class can be historically relevant or irrelevant. If it is assisting the economy to grow it is relevant, it is necessary; if it is a parasite, then it is an obstacle. So we must define what sort of businessmen are we. Are we enhancing the economic health of the country, or are we parasites who only deplete the resources of the country? As pointed out earlier, by rejecting these criminal acts by the historically irrelevant — me, I call them irrelevant — so-called business class, that usurp power solely for parasitic designs on the national resources, we have been able to save considerable sums.

For instance, if one assumes that Uganda carries 300,000 tons of coffee to the sea every year, by saving $96 on every ton on transport alone — that is, if we use the railway instead of the road — we shall have saved $28 million annually on transport costs alone. These figures, I got them from the railways. On transport alone, on the coffee transport by rail rather than road we can save a total of $28 million annually. This is more than enough to rehabilitate (Nitel) factory almost twice over, to enable it produce the 31 million meters of textiles, that is, its full capacity. [passage omitted]

You can imagine people to steal [as heard] (Nitel) factory in 1 year, they steal it completely, it is not there. Then they steal Uganda Blankets. Then they steal about five or six other small factories and they are walking about along the streets. The people tolerating them is unimaginable. I have no business in government if I do not stop this evil.

I do not have to be in government. I can just go and look after my cows. If I am in government I must do a good job. I must help the people. I cannot allow such thieves. Therefore, the thieves who were using the road rather than the railway were stealing annually the capacity to repair a big factory like (Nitel) and many other small factories on the transport of coffee alone. This is not to speak of the transport of other commodities to and from the coast. The estimated total loss amounts to $55 million on coffee, tea, timber, hides, and skins, and fuel alone. If we use the road on these items instead of railway — this is just, which I have just mentioned — annually, according to the railways' figures, we shall lose $55 million.

We have been discussing with the IMF and I think we have almost agreed. And once we agree, IMF may give us $29 million. That is almost half of what we allow people to steal from us through the use of roads rather than rail.

To conclude this point one needs to point out that it is gratifying to note that provided we weed out the parasites and are not lazy ourselves, because that is also a problem. We are not lazy ourselves, and provided we solve the problem of the unjustified foreign debts in one way or another we can indeed solve our economic problem. That is to say, if we weed out the parasites in the system and we are not lazy ourselves and we solve this problem of the $200 million we pay those Obote borrowed money from we can be able to solve our problem and manage our resources carefully.

We welcome private business, provided it contributes to the general good and is not parasitic. So, do not get an impression that Museveni is attacking private businesses. Because that is what they normally say: Museveni is a communist, he is against the private business. And actually when I look around, I am richer than those who say..[laughter] when you examine actually...[Museveni changes thought] There was a time I had one British friend of mine, he said: But we hear you are a communist. I said: How much land do you have? [laughter] And apparently he had no land. [laughter] And me, I do not have a few acres, I have got a big piece of land. So the one who has nothing is the one who is calling me a communist.

It is not a question of communism. It is a question of, even under capitalism, you must have proper public conduct. You cannot use your public office to steal from the country, from the economy, from the state. That is all we are saying. This is the communism you are talking about, the communism of stopping thieves. Even in capitalist countries they do not allow misuse of office. You are a minister of transport, your lorries are the first to take coffee. Imagine: You are the minister, your lorries are being used to take coffee of the Coffee Marketing Board.

Now what sort of capitalism is this? It is not capitalism. This is the best way to undermine capitalism if you are talking about capitalism, because it won't even take off, because capitalism thrives because of minimization of costs. In order for capitalism to thrive you must minimize costs and maximize profits. You don't maximize costs and minimize profits, and you think you are building capitalism. This is capitalism, African-type, [laughter] where you maximize costs and minimize profits. This is a new brand of capitalism.

And this is what Fanon, one philosopher called Franz Fanon, that's what he said about the African businessmen. He said that these African businessmen are a caricature of the European businessmen; they are just an imitation, a funny imitation of the European businessmen. And he said that they were senile, they are senile before they are even young, can you imagine? Because you are supposed to be young, then youth, the middle-aged then senile, senile. But the African businessmen are senile before they are even young. What he meant was that the European businessmen were very disciplined, parsimonious, frugal, hardworking, saving every penny. That is how they were able to build the European capitalism. But the African version, they start at the wrong end, wasteful, not cost conscious, extravagant, this is why they start at the wrong end of the ladder. [passage omitted]

I am also happy to report that some achievements have been registered in our revolutionary program of using the barter trade rather than being slaves of the dollar even in fields where it's not necessary. Unfortunately, this has been registered by our corrupt or confused officials. Some of our trading partners have been frustrated by the obstructiveness of officials in certain ministries. Nevertheless we have been able to conclude some deals with countries like Tanzania, Yugoslavia, and Cuba. Our brothers in Egypt, Somalia, and Ethiopia are ready to conclude some deals, if it was not for lack of seriousness or outright sabotage on the part of our officials. [passage omitted]

I do not want to hear any more that Uganda has no commodities to barter. Because this is the language they have been spreading around. Whenever friends come from outside, these officials tell them that Uganda has no commodities to barter. [Words indistinct] Okay, even if you do not have commodities to barter this season, because our seasons take only 4 months, produce for the next season. Make it a program. Tell your trading partners that, sir, I do not have the commodities this season, but let us make the deal in such a way that next season I will fulfill your obligation. What is the problem? Providing you get a deal, prepare, produce the commodity next season if you do not have it this season. Then you can produce much more than you are producing now.

Now in view of what I have said above, one may then ask: If there has been some success in these economic measures, why then is the cost of living still high? It is true, the cost of living is still high, very high, because the results of these measures have not yet been felt. Moreover, these measures are not entirely [words indistinct] but even if they arrive, their rate of utilization is bound to be still slow because the roads are bad. So until the roads are also attended to, even if we bring in the trucks, still the turnaround speed of the vehicle will still be slow. So this whole problem of solving Uganda's economic problems must be a painstaking job. And that is what everybody should realize. [passage omitted]

If you have got somebody who is educated and honest, identify him to us. We are slowly identifying also some of them. At the same time we must strike blows against those corrupt officials who think they will frustrate the program of the NRM, which aims at liberating the people, the economy and the culture and the politics of Uganda. Therefore, this session of the NRC should be seen as an offensive against the saboteurs. Saboteurs are still sabotaging us but we are now going to launch an offensive also. We have been preparing, so this session is in the annual [word indistinct]. We are now in the assembly area, preparing to go to fight, using legislation. We are now going to attack, we are going to counterattack against corrupt officials using legislation, using the law. This is the purpose, the main purpose of this session. We are going to use this session to launch a very wide-ranging legislative program to equip the state with laws which will suppress the corrupt elements in officialdom, as well as attacking other decadent tendencies in our society. Consequently, bills have been prepared in relation to the following aspects of our national life:

1. Resistance Councils. We would like to give legality to these councils, so that they are not harassed by those who say they are not legal. They are legitimate, but not legal; that is what I was talking about: Legitimacy without legality. So these councils are legitimate, are a legitimate force because they are democratic institutions. We are talking about democracy. So they have been legitimate without being legalized. Now we are also going to legalize them in this session.

2. We shall amend the penal code which affects the following areas: Embezzlement of public funds; something more vigorous is needed there. We shall not be ruled by (?what is) [words indistinct] contained in that penal code. Smuggling: When you smuggle we need to really hurt you because you are hurting us, We need to hurt you. And how do we hurt you effectively, the smuggler?

Misuse of public office to the detriment of the public or for personal gain: If you misuse public office and the public loses, what is done to you? How effectively are you fined? The present: I do not think any misuse of public office, I am not even sure that...[Museveni changes thought] Anyway, I do not even want to venture into that area. But we have drawn up a bill to be more vigorous on that front.

Neglect of public duty resulting in loss to the public: I do not think that this is even a crime as of now. We now intend to make it a crime. It will be a crime for you to neglect your duty and the public losing because of that.

Law against sectarianism: Because there is no law against sectarianism you can see in the papers, one day I read a paper, one of the local papers here which was saying: Abalango Gabesibye Ko? That means the Langis — something has, — what is Gabisibye Ko? What would one say? [Reply from the audience: That they have nowhere to go]. Yes, the Langis have nowhere to go. They're in a corner. Can you imagine? Just on the front page of a newspaper. You see, now you are talking of unity, and you have no law to protect unity. This is a strange law. So like in this case what could I do, because I wanted to lock up this man I was so angry. This fellow of the papers. I called the newspaper people. I said to the lawyers: What can I do about this man, who is talking about the Langis having nowhere to go? They said: There is nothing you can say. The only thing you can do is to answer him in the papers. I said: No, no, I am not going to. [laughter] You can also answer him. I said: But this is not serious. So we need a law to protect the unity of the people of Uganda, because this unity is very, very useful for everybody.

Aiding the enemy: That one we have been seeing; people here just openly aiding the enemies of the state, of the people of Uganda, [word indistinct] of the state, of the people of Uganda, and nothing could be done to them because the law is a bit weak.

There is also something about exchange control amendment.

Armed Forces Act amendment: And here about the Armed Forces the idea is to quickly try soldiers who misbehave and punish some people, because we used to have a very quick process in the bush. But when we came here we were told that this is bush law. [laughter] And now we are in a lot of problems, because for instance the other day I was in Moyo, whenever our soldiers misbehaved and there was nothing we could do there. I understood we have to bring them here, and now this (?screws) the whole process, and the people do not understand this type of procedures. They are impatient with the procedures. They even think that sometimes people are released. They think the people are arrested and then released. And that demoralizes them, so we want this act to be made simpler.

Inspector general of government: This is an institution we set up so that it investigates corruption and misuse of office. But at the moment it was set up by administrative order of the president. But now we would like it to be backed by a statute, so that this inspector general can even call people to answer. Because now we can summon somebody, somebody refuses to appear before him unless I come in and I force him, say administratively: You go and appear before the inspector general. He has no powers to force these people to appear before him. For this he needs support by the law.

Then there is something about the NRC rules of procedure, customs amendments, leadership code, there is something about the leadership code. We are tired of people getting rich in office. I would like the leaders to declare their assets. We are not against you being rich. But you just show us that you became rich legitimately, and this time legally. (?I think) you should be both this time, [laughter] legitimately and also legally. You see, just show us how you got all this property. We will not set limits for how much you can have.

Land law amendment: This is a minor amendment on the land law, because now there is a lot of cases between squatters and landlords. They even fight. So we would like the... [Museveni changes thought] but now the government has no power now to come in and arbitrate, because this is not provided for in the act. It is not a fundamental revision of the law here which is proposed, but just to enable the commission of land to arbitrate in these conflicts.

Karamoja Development Agency: We need to set up an agency to develop Karamoja specifically, and we think it will help that area.

Then there are other legislations about the National Security Organization. Well, these intelligence services, they need to be governed by the law, which is known, which controls their behavior, and so on, and so forth, because in the past, intelligence organizations have misbehaved greatly. They have made themselves into arresting agencies. We want them now to be controlled by the law, to know where to stop, to know that their job is just to gather information and gather it discreetly, not wearing sun goggles [laughter] and putting on platform shoes and bell-bottoms and going into bars with pistols, and so on.

Above all, I think this law which is proposed here is to ensure that the intelligence services have no powers of arrest because I think this was one of the biggest problems in the past. They have no powers of arrest. You just spy. If spying is your job, do that, but you don't arrest. And don't decide, don't decide. You have no powers to arrest, and you have no powers of deciding. You are not a decision-maker. You are just a provider of information. I think these are the main elements contained in this law. In the past I don't think there was even a law governing these groups. I don't think...[changes thought] they were just operating by themselves. They were a law unto themselves.

Of course, I hope everybody understands that these gentlemen are needed, however much [prolonged laughter] because while we are waiting for that time which was predicted in the Bible, when the lamb would lie in the bosom of the lion, while we are still waiting for that time, we still need these gentlemen. But we are simply saying that while they are doing their business, they should do it according to a law. And there was no law governing these [words indistinct] because they had no guidance given to some of them. They had no guidance, so it is a very important law.

Something about the new vision and so on and so forth. Others, I don't know their political importance, and so on. [sentence as heard]

So, it will be a busy session. And above all the point I would like to emphasize here is that this is a continuation of the [words indistinct] the liberation struggle. Having defeated these bad elements in the bush, we now need to defeat them in the law books. We need to put laws which defend the population against the bad elements. Now, therefore, law becomes an instrument of struggle, an instrument of liberation, an instrument for protecting the whole of society against these renegade elements. Now that the NRM has got state power we should use appropriate laws to defend the interests of the people against the criminal, moribund, or parasitic elements in our society.

As far as foreign relations is concerned, I am happy to report that the standing of Uganda has dramatically risen in the eyes of the world, and of Africa in particular. This is because of our ideological and political lines, which represent patriotism, genuine independence, and development for the Ugandan people.

In Africa we aim at cooperation among all African countries. Scientifically speaking, an NRM-led administration will always have good relationships with all African administrations except South Africa. And here I am talking about administrations.

Mark my words. I don't like this business of saying that Uganda is on bad terms with Kenya and with Tanzania. Why? Uganda and Kenya have no problems. They are one, they are one, they are brothers. They can never be on bad terms. So what can be on bad terms are the administrations, not countries, African countries. If you note my words, I don't even use foreign when I am talking about Africa, I don't say foreign countries. I say outside countries, or fraternal countries, or brother countries, but not foreign. Kenya is not foreign. Tanzania is not foreign. Zaire is not foreign. If I had been at Berlin in 1885, maybe I would have brought a few ideas which would have been different from those of Bismarck. So I do not agree that there should be bad relationships between an African country and another African country. But there can be problems between the administrations.

So, that is why I am very careful using these words here. I am saying that our administration, the NRM administration, will always have good relationships with all African administrations, except South Africa, which is currently led by racists, as long as those administrations do not interfere in the internal affairs of Uganda. That is all we are interested in. Any administration, as long as it does not interfere in our affairs, we have no quarrel with it, and we can do business with it. And we regard all the

African countries as brother countries, especially those which are neighboring one another.

The political process in each country should always be realized without interference from any outside force, African or non-African. We believe that the political process in each individual country should be left to sort itself out without any interference from any source, any outsider, African or non-African. African countries have no right to interfere in the affairs of other African countries. Because even when we are in one house, even when we are brothers in one house, everybody has got his room. If I am in my room, my sister has no right to come and start playing music in my room, although it is the same house. So she stays in her room,, I stay in mine. Even in one house we must observe rules of sovereignty.

As for the outside countries, for the non-African countries, those have no business at all to come and meddle here. No business at all, at all, at all. They should mind their own business. We have, however, been [word indistinct].

So, that's how we regard the inter-African relationships, relations between African states. First of all, the African countries are brother countries. That is not up to the government of Museveni, the government of this president or that president. That is by God. God is the one who made us. I didn't make even an (?inch) of Uganda. My job is to husband the good relationship, [words indistinct], that's my job as long as I am in charge of state affairs. So, there is no question of saying that this country is against that country, but administrations could be in conflict because of political outlooks.

Now, in our case, we say we don't see why we should be in conflict with any African administration as long as it does not interfere in the affairs — in the internal affairs — of Uganda. We have no quarrel with it. It can do its own affairs. Whether we like it, it can have its own policies in its own country — whether we like it — or in foreign relations, whether we like those policies, or not. We have no right to interfere.

We have, however, been infuriated by the arrogance of the Kenya papers. From time to time, they give us lectures about various Ugandan issues, Kenyan papers lecturing us. Do this. You are wrong to do that. You are wrong to invite that gentleman. These are the Kenya papers giving us lectures, lectures. When the papers lecture me about Uganda, it is really a very unwise business because I know, I have walked, breathed in every inch of Uganda. So I don't need any lecture from any paper, certainly not the Kenyan papers. They tell lies about events in Uganda.

Recently, a Kenyan paper claimed that there were 1,000 Libyan soldiers and 50 Cuban soldiers in Uganda. I do not mind Kenyan papers writing about Uganda. They have, however, no right to tell lies about Uganda.

Although we have nothing but derision — we have nothing but derision, just contempt for this type of cheap journalism — we must point out that we shall never use foreign forces to solve Uganda's political problems. The few outside soldiers that will ever come here will always be trainers. We have a few Libyans, a few Tanzanians, a few North Koreans, a few British, a few Italians, a few Kenyans themselves, participating in or advizing about training. The bulk of the training is, however, done by ourselves. This (?has also) been made very clear. We shall never join those regimes that are kept in power by foreign forces. We are not one of those regimes. We shall never be. We shall never allow foreign bases in our country. We shall never allow foreign soldiers in our country and we shall never allow foreign bases in our country.

An administration has no right to allow a foreign base in its country unless it has carried out a referendum by the people about that particular issue. I have no right to bring a foreign base unless I have carried out a referendum and the people of Uganda have said OK, have a foreign base. I can bring some trainers. These are just a few people.

If you want I can bring them here, line them here and you see them, the trainers who are here. That is the truth, and everybody knows it. Why then do some Kenyan papers falsify the reality? These papers are being used by the very interests hit by our policy of not using the roads and not using the commission agents. These are the people behind these papers. I am talking about Kenyan papers. The venom of these elements will not divert us from our line of emancipating our economy. I hope the Kenyan leaders will be able to restrain these papers from distorting Uganda's image.

The hostile elements in Kenya do not confine themselves to the press. We witnessed recently the brutal murder of a Ugandan teacher in Kisii by Kenyan police, and the attempts by the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to cover up the crime by saying that this brother died of hypertension. Fortunately, the timely move by our High Commission in Kenya enabled the Government of Uganda to get the facts before the Kenyan police destroyed them. I am glad President Moi has ordered an inquest into this murder and one of the policeman has been arrested. I am very glad about this. We hope, however, the police will appropriately press the charges and not leave loopholes for the criminals to go.

In the meantime, I want all Ugandan professionals in Kenya to come back. I have already issued a directive to the minister of public service and cabinet affairs to work out attractive terms for certain professionals because of their special skills. Ugandans in Kenya should take advance of this and come back and stop themselves from being humiliated by bullies in Kenya's officialdom. Ugandan professionals should also stop being utilized by the South African regime through working for the Bantustans. [passage omitted]

Before I leave this question of the papers, of Kenya, I would request the Ugandan papers to also desist from attacking the Government of Kenya or any African government, because the foreign policy of Uganda is conducted through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, not through the papers. [passage indistinct] Before you write about any foreign country, I would suggest to you to come and clear it with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Because, we are not so sophisticated here in Africa to distinguish between an opinion of a paper and an opinion of a government. And these papers can cause us unnecessary problems with outside countries, especially African countries. [passage omitted]

Some elements have been making fools of themselves by trying to accuse us for violating human rights, and comparing us to the Amin and Obote regimes. We can never hope to please those whose past is tainted with crime, or with collaboration with crime. Alas, however much we try, we cannot (?clean) the hearts of those who were involved in crime in the past. [words indistinct] an NRA offender is not punished, it will merely be because the responsible levels of NRA are not informed, and not because of condoning the crime. Liars are welcome to spin and weave their subterfuge. The truth, however, about the NRA will never change. We shall always stand for the 10-point program, whose core is the respect of the dignity of the African people and of man in general.

Recently a despicable attempt was made by the corrupt [words indistinct] of the late Dr Kaytira. As I speak now, however, suspects have been brought before the court in connection with that cowardly murder. Similarly, those like Bishop Ogwal, who say that the NRA are violating human rights in the north, are liars before man and before God. As I have said above, there is no doubt that some bad elements lurking within the ranks of the NRA may commit crimes, but if those crimes are reported they will definitely be punished severely. Everybody in Uganda knows this. [passage omitted]

These people like Ogwal are trying to cover up their own past involvement with the UPC [Uganda People's Congress] administration, which committed untold crimes. They are trying to say: We committed crimes, but the NRA is also committing crimes like we did, so we are the same. That is what they are trying to say. They want the NRA to attack like them. This can never be, because, as I have already said, of the following:

A. We have clearly laid out codes of conduct, defining crimes and punishments for them.

B. We have shown our willingness and ability to punish any NRA personnel who commits a crime, provided he is identified. And if you want to prove this, I have told the (?NRA) commander to organize a tour for the journalists and the diplomats, if they want, and the human rights organs, agencies, to go to the prisons and see how many NRA personnel are locked up because of wrongdoing. I am under (?any means) ready to challenge anybody who wants. And this time I want you to invite anybody interested, newspapermen, clergymen, diplomats to come to a certain place, and you drive them there and you show them the prisons, NRA prisoners who were arrested for wrongdoing.

Now, obviously, if this man is not seen, we may not be able to punish him. But, the number we have arrested is definitely great, of wrongdoers. Proof of this are the hundreds of NRA wrongdoers in custody as of now. We have even arrested some of our useful officers and soldiers. For instance, some of the officers who were involved in the reconnoitering of Masindi Barracks, from which we captured a lot of weapons in 1984, were arrested on suspicion of wrongdoing. They were only released after proving that they had been falsely accused. I mean we can go to the extent of arresting even someone who had been useful to us in the past. These are just facts. Nobody is above the law in the NRA, or in Uganda of today. It is not only the NRA, but even in Uganda nobody is above the law. If anybody says he is above the law, he is telling you lies.

Therefore, those who compare us to Amin are talking nonsense. Anybody who picks isolated incidents and tries to use them as a pretext for waging war will bear full responsibility for the loss ?of human) lives. Those who try to attack the NRA have been suffering and will continue to suffer in future if they continue their suicidal mission. We shall use the guns of the NRA with the authority of the masses who support us to oppose wrong and defend (?right). That has always been our line. We shall use guns to oppose the wrong and defend the right. The people we kill are mainly those who carry guns illegally in Uganda, and carry out acts of war. If any civilian is killed at all, it can only be because of unavoidable crossfire.

An amnesty document has been worked out. It will be (?published soon) [words indistinct] rebels to take advantage of it and come back. We shall settle them like we did the others who fought us before. Because these are not the first ones. We fought people, defeated them, captured them. We captured 3,000 people in [word indistinct]and Mbarara after besieging them for 3 months. In the (?beginning) they were killing our people, then we captured them, we reorganized the, and some of them are with us.

[Passage indistinct] Can he say this? How can Ogwal say this, Ogwal, or any character as such? These are the facts. So, if those fellows decide, if they are tired of fighting, let them come and we shall reorganize them, retrain them and accommodate them, those who can be accommodated, those who did not kill. If he killed a person with his own authority, then we shall arrest him. Warlike activities on their part, however, will mean grievous losses to themselves. That one I cannot be apologetic about.

Finally, I must express complete bafflement at the reasoning of some elements in our society. Some say it is wrong to announce the casualties or the deaths in the conflicts started by moribund elements in some parts of Uganda. They say that we should keep quiet, so I have been told. Now, here I am confused. If we keep quiet, then they will say that we are covering up the situation, that we are losing the war and hiding the facts. That is precisely what some of the papers were saying some time ago.

We then organized trips for them to go and see what was happening. Then some elements started saying that we are bloodthirsty. That is why we relish displaying the enemy dead. Now totally here I am confused. This war is not a secret war. It is the war in Uganda. It is a war in which the people of Uganda have given a lot of interest. It should, therefore, be told in my opinion. [Words indistinct] to think that it is all right to talk about [words indistinct] accidents in papers and not about armed conflicts where great issues are at stake.

So here I find it very difficult to understand, you know,this line which some people have been taking, as though in fear. This Museveni, these fellows are bad persons. Why do they talk baout people who have died in the open? If we keep quiet, then they say we are covering up the situation. And in any case this is in the public interest of Uganda.

That is all I wanted to say for today and I wish to declare this session open, and I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

Thank you very much. [applause]

CHAD

Libyan Air Force Bombs Zouar, Ouadi Doum

AB091352 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The Libyan Air Force bombed Zouar and (?Erdi) yesterday. [8 April] The raid on these two areas took place between (?2100) and 0000 local time.

Tracked down and driven off by the FANT [words indistinct] the Tripoli troops have now resorted to intensive bombings of places under FANT control. Thus, Ouadi Doum has been hit three times by the Libyan Air Force. The last raid, considered strategic for the Libyan troops, took place yesterday. [sentence indistinct]

Radio Comments on Raids

AB092128 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Having completely lost control of the ground, Libya has but one resource, its air wing. It has used this frequently after its troops escaped from much of our territory. This was most evident in Ouadi Doum and Faya-Largeau. The latest air raid was carried out as recently as yesterday on Zouar and (?Erdi) in the Tibesti, as the attack began at 2100 and ended at 0000 local time. These acts reflect Tripoli's desire to cleanse itself of the affront it has suffered in recent months in northern Chad, an affront to Al-Qadhdhafi himself, who was apparently personally responsible for preparing the offensive that resulted in the debacle of Ouadi Doum. These raids also demonstrate Al-Qadhdhafi's desire to continue the war to achieve his [word indistinct] objectives. Al-Qadhdhafi is encouraged to persist in this effort by the very low level of international and especially African disapproval he has encountered. This is despite the extensive and blantant evidence of his excessive engagement in Chad, which was curtailed by the latest fighting in Fada, Bir-Kora, Ouadi Doum, andFaya-Largeau. This evidence has taken the form of military equipment destroyed or seized intact, which has an astronomical value in CFA francs; and prisoners of war, including several officers and a colonel, the highest military rank in Libya.

This (?indifference) characterizing the attitude of African countries and political organizations can only encourage the Libyan colonel to continue the hostilities. However, the Chadian people, united behind their president and Armed Forces, are seasoned enough in war to make Al-Qadhdhafi's colonial policy fail. Better still, they will compel him, by force if necessary, to respect Chad's internationally recognized borders.

GUNT Communique Condemns Factionalism, Urges Unity

AB092015 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1820 GMT 9 Apr 87

[GUNT Information Ministry press communique dated 7 April; place of issue not given]

[Text] (?Regardless) of developments on the battlefield, the Transitional National Union Government's [GUNT] major goal remains total liberation from the non-African stranglehold. Yet, we must admit it: The liberation fight will never be won as long as factional, anti-unity practices persist in our ranks. Unfortunately, we must once again observe that this military principle, which is a condition for our victory over the forces of evil, is simply flouted.

In view of this, the GUNT is determined to firmly remind all its political components that the Cotonou II Agreement categorically insists on suspending the parallel activities of the factions. In the future, the GUNT will not close its eyes to acts likely to call the provisions of the agreement into question, particularly those clauses concerning cohesion among GUNT's various factions.

Moreover, it is relevant to remind all the forces and liberation movements that due to the dangers posed by imperialism to the Chadian people, it behooves all patriots to mobilize and close ranks so as to constitute a single force.

Issued on 7 April 1987.

[Signed] Minister of Information Telero Guidingar.

BURKINA FASO

Minister Leaves for Chad With Sankara Message

AB091358 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade Leandre Bassole, minister of external relations and cooperation, left Ouagadougou today for Ndjamena. The comrade minister has a message from the comrade chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and president of Burkina Faso [Thomas Sankara] for His Excellency Hissein Habre, president of the Republic of Chad.

NIGERIA

NEWSWATCH Editors To Be Prosecuted for Documents

AB091056 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The three editorial executives of the proscribed *Newswatch* magazine are to be prosecuted. They are Ray Ekpu, Dan Agbese, and Yakubu Mohammed.

Addressing Dodan Barracks correspondents yesterday, the press secretary to the chief of General Staff, Yusuf Maman, said the charges against the three men will be raised under the Official Secrets Act. He said that the police had found incriminating government documents with the three men.

Newswatch magazine was banned on Monday [6 April].

VANGUARD Condemns Ban

AB081125 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 8 Apr 87

[From the press review]

[Text] In a front-page comment headlined "Tragic," *The Vanguard* condemns last Monday's proscription of *Newswatch* magazine by the Federal Government. The paper says the ban has not only deprived the means of livelihood to the publishers and others directly concerned, but has also denied the rights to expressions of millions of the magazine's recipients.

The Vanguard is of the opinion that if the weekly had contravened the rules of official secrets and classified security information as alleged by the government, the right thing to do is for the government to have recourse to due processes contained in the statute books. If the *Newswatch* is then found to have acted in breach of laid down laws, reasonable sanctions would have been justified.

The Vanguard believes that the proscription has splashed a stain on the administration's human rights' reputation and advises the government to rescind the decision.

SIERRA LEONE

BBC Updates Coup Plot Probe; 2 Suspects at Large

AB091115 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Apr 87

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Ofeibea Quist-Arcton]

[Text] Since the recent attempted coup or assassination in Sierra Leone, if that's what it was, there is still considerable confusion about exactly what's going on. We know there have been numerous arrests and there are rumors that even the former president, Siaka Stevens, was put under house arrest at the weekend. Well, on the line from Freetown last night, I asked Khalid Kamara exactly how many people were still on the run.

[Begin recording] [Kamara] They still have something like two people on the run. Both of them are military men and a reward of 25,000 leones is now being offered to anybody who can give information leading to their arrest.

[Quist-Arcton] How many people are actually under arrest other than Mohamed Kaikai and the vice president, Francis Minah?

[Kamara] You have a total of 56 persons, apart from these 2. We got 34 including 2 women at Pademba Road under detention and then 18 at the CID [Criminal Investigations Department] Headquarters including 4 women.

[Quist-Arcton] Now, can you tell me more about the vice president, Francis Misheck Minah? Why is he under arrest? What reasons have been given?

[Kamara] Because the police say that he's being detained for further investigation, nothing actually has come out to implicate him one way or the other either by his own statement or statement made by Kaikai or any other people.

[Quist-Arcton] What about Mohamed Kaikai and all the other people who are under arrest? Have any reason...

[Kamara, interrputing] Well, as far as Mohamed Kaikai is concerned, we hear that he has made a 30-page statement in which he has implicated quite a number of people including, for example, a Palestinian gentleman who holds a Jordanian passport by the name of Muhammad Jawad al-Gool. This fellow works for Jamil Sa'id Muhammad, one of Sierra Leone's leading businessmen, but he left the country 4 days before the 23d of March when this incident took place.

[Quist-Arcton] What about the former president, Siaka Stevens, because there have been rumors which really haven't been cleared up that he was or is under house arrest?

[Kamara] I have been talking to the police and twice they have said that Mr Stevens is not under house arrest. They are quite emphatic as far as that point is concerned and it seems that somebody may have been giving some rather wrong information about Mr Stevens, or perhaps they have been jumping the gun.

[Quist-Arcton] What is the general feeling in Freetown at the moment and in Sierra Leone in general about the whole situation?

[Kamara] Since last Saturday when President Momoh held the rally at State House, there was a lot of support for him. His government and people have also tried to give themselves support because people are afraid. They have seen that they have just escaped a major tragedy so people are taking this matter personally, that it was in fact something which could have happened to anybody. As a result, there has been a lot of support for Mr Momoh. Even the unbelieving Thomases have come forward and decided to give support to President Momoh to the hilt.

[Quist-Arcton] So do people believe there was a genuine coup or assassination attempt? What do you say?

[Kamara] I think I can now say that there was a genuine assassination plan and a coup plan in view of what is beginning to come out and in view of the fact that people have been on the run. People have left the country before even the incident took place and we begin to hear some statements which have been made by the prime suspect Mr M.J.T. Kaikai, implicating a lot of people around. [end recording]

Former President Interviewed

AB091624 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Considerable play has been made since the uncovering of the coup plot last month in Sierra Leone of connections between alleged plotters and ex-President Siaka Stevens, who remains chairman of the ruling APC [All People's Congress] party. A cache of arms was found at the houses of M.J.T. Kaikai, a former close aide of Stevens, and his onetime right-hand man, Vice President Francis Minah, has been picked up and detained. There have even been reports that Siaka Stevens himself is under house arrest. In Freetown, Calio Kamara went to see Siaka Stevens and asked him how he felt about the rumors that he was under house arrest:

[Begin recording] [Stevens] I have been very seriously distressed by the rumors, very very seriously, by the fact that the BBC and the Voice of America are international organizations which we have learned to respect over the years and which, we think, should be very very careful and responsible before they put out news. Ihave been a head of state and chairman of the party, chairman to give a little word of advice here and there when it is required, not chairman to interfere into the daily workings of the party, far from it. And for me to be linked up with anything which will deteriorate the standing of the APC, is impossible for me to do. I built the APC.

[Kamara] Sir, why should anybody want to make capital out of such a rumor that you have been placed under house arrest?

[Stevens] You know there is this coup talked about now, all sorts of rumors, and for the man here and the man in the provinces there is this coup talk [words indistinct] going with the coup talk, there is talk that they are under house arrest, they are connected with the coup. That is a diabolical part of it. There are wicked people in this world.

[Kamara] What will be your reaction to the incident of March 23d?

[Stevens] What incident is that?

[Kamara] I am talking about the plan to stage a coup?

[Stevens] Well, these things are in the hands of the police. They may get to court. So, the most sensible thing to do about it is to keep quiet. Leave the police to do their work. They will go through it. Leave the law to take its course. That is what I will say.

[Kamara] What about the (?talk) now that Mr Minah, who was the first vice president, has now been placed in detention with this matter. What will be your reaction?

[Stevens] As I said, the matter is in the hands of the police. A law (?court) is taking charge. Let the law take its course.

[Kamara] Sir, thank you very much.

[Stevens] Thank you very much indeed for coming here this morning and giving me this opportunity to talk so that people in the world can hear. There are wicked people in the world, there are a lot of good ones, but there are wicked ones. [end recording]

BOTSWANA

RSA Allegations of ANC Bases Dismissed

MB091758 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 9 April 87

[Text] The Department of External Affairs has released a statement on South African threats against Botswana. The department says it has received a telex message from the Department of Foreign Affairs of South Africa alleging that the ANC was planning to launch an offensive aimed at disrupting the forthcoming South African elections for whites by violence, and that for this end groups of armed ANC cadres who were being infiltrated into South Africa via Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. The message said the South African Department of External Affairs then threatened dire consequences on Botswana and other neighbors of South Africa if the ANC should carry out their alleged violent activities. The Department of External Affairs states by the time the South African message was received, its contents have long been released to the press by the South African authorities.

The department has, in its response to the message, reiterated the well-known policy that Botswana does not allow itself to be used either as a base for armed attacks on its neighbors or as a transit route for armed infiltration into neighboring countries, including South Africa. Consequently, the Botswana Government has asked the South African authorities to provide detailed information on the allegation.

The Department of External Affairs said it will be recalled that past similar messages from the South African Government had been followed or accompanied by raids on Botswana and or other countries neighboring South Africa. On every such occasion, says the department, South African raids into Botswana have been shown to have been totally unjustified. Invariably, such raids have been carried out not because of any hostile acts on the part of Botswana, but rather simply because those who authorize them saw the raids as serving some internal political purpose, such as placating certain political elements within their society.

The Department of External Affairs says with the forthcoming whites-only elections in South Africa, the temptation to seek to attract especially the right-wing vote, through some tough action against Botswana, must no doubt be great. Given the stiff competition for right-wingsupport in the election campaign, it is not surprising that familiar accusations and threats related to the ANC are once again coming out of South Africa.

The Department of External Affairs has urged the South African Government to restrain itself and to avoid the temptation of blaming its neighbors for the problems of South Africa and to address seriously the root cause of its problems, which is apartheid.

MOZAMBIQUE

'Official' Source Accuses RSA of Planning Attack

MB091724 Dakar PANA in English 1710 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Maputo, 9 April (AIM/PANA) — An official Mozambican source told AIM today that the latest statements by South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha indicate that Pretoria is planning fresh attacks against the independent countries of the region.

Cited by the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), Botha had alleged that "heavy armed terrorists" of the African National Congress were gathering near Lusaka in order to infiltrate South Africa where they intended to disrupt the whites-only elections scheduled for 6 May.

Botha claimed that some were already on their way, and were using Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique as transit routes. He also said that Pretoria had warned the Governments of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique that the South African Armed Forces would take retaliatory action.

"This kind of statement has usually been a prelude to attacks against Mozambique and other states bordering South Africa, and is designed to justify aggression in the eyes of international public opinion," said AIM's source.

He added that "we signed the Nkomati non-aggression accord with South Africa, and we have remained faithful to it. It is South Africa which has systematically violated the accord."

"Declarations of this nature show South Africa's intentions to commit fresh violations of the Nkomati Accord," said the official source.

This morning a bomb exploded in a poor neighbourhood of the Botswana capital Gaborone, killing three people. Apparently the bomb was in a vehicle carrying South African registration plates.

Chissano Rejects Negotiations With 'Armed Bandits'

MB080939 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] President Joaquim Chissano has again condemned certain countries for asking the Mozambican Government to hold talks with armed bandits. The Mozambican head of state was addressing thousands of people in the Nicoadala District Headquarters in Zambezia Province.

What sort of country do they want to govern: one without people, homes, roads, or an infrastructure? The Mozambican leader made these remarks after listening to reports by people who had lived under, and been captives of armed bandits. President Chissano chose nine people to recount their experiences at the hands of armed bandits. Almost all of them, mainly women and children, said they had lost members of their families. Chissano said that armed bandits were unscrupulous and heartless people acting under South African orders.

The president expressed his satisfaction with the existing confidence between the Armed Forces and the people, which is demonstrated by the fact that most of those kidnapped by the armed bandits had tried to flee and surrender to our Armed Forces. President Joaquim stressed that this is the response the armed bandits must get.

Told of 'Critical Situation'

MB081215 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Excerpt] In Quelimane this morning, President Joaquim Chissano met with Zambezia's provincial government. Outgoing Governor Feliciano Gundana presented a report revealing the critical situation in the province, where a third of the population is currently affected by armed bandits supported by South Africa. The report states, however, that there is an increasing political awareness among the people, as shown in the second general elections and in the denunciation of armed bandits during mopping-up operations.

The provincial meeting, which is being attended by 43 invited officials and 18 members of the government, continued behind closed doors after the reading of the report.

In the course of his working visit to Zambezia, Joaquim Chissano met with the General Staff advanced post command in Quelimane yesterday afternoon. [passage omitted]

NAMIBIA

SWATF Releases Figures on Conflict With SWAPO

MB091413 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1320 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Windhoek, April 8, SAPA — The number of landmine incidents in the northern SWA/Namibian war area showed a sharp increase from 1983, according to statistics released by the SWA Territory Force in Windhoek today.

Anti-personnel mine blasts rose from 20 in 1983 to 561 last year, and the total for the first three months of this year was 331, compared to 142 in 1984 and 284 in 1985.

Similar figures for anti-vehicle mines were 89 in 1983, 77 in 1984, 147 in 1985, 328 in 1986 and 187 to date this year.

According to the SWATF statistics the number of losses suffered by SWAPO's armed wing (PLAN) [People's Liberation Army of Namibia] was 2023 in 1978, 915 in 1979, 1447 in 1980, 1494 in 1981, 1286 in 1982, 918 in 1983, 584 in 1984, 599 in 1985, 645 last year, and 402 in the first three months of this year.

PLAN's strength presently stood at about 9000 trained insurgents compared to 16,000 in 1978.

Incidents caused by PLAN, mainly in northern SWA/Namibia, were 535 in 1977, 462 in 1978, 837 in 1979, 1175 in 1980, 1052 in 1981, 756 in 1982, 620 in 1983, 639 in 1984, 656 in 1985 and 476 last year.

The PLAN-related incidents comprised armed encounters with the security forces, ambushes, mine blasts, intimidation and sabotage.

Armed contacts with PLAN initiated by the security forces were 481 in 1980, 452 in 1981, 223 in 1982, 245 in 1983, 245 in 1984, 186 in 1985, 121 in 1986 and 92 in the first three months of this year.

Armed contacts with the security forces initiated by PLAN were 163 in 1980, 84 in 1981, 74 in 1982, 54 in 1983, 62 in 1984, 66 in 1985, 55 in 1986 and 26 in the first three months of this year.

The number of civilian deaths in the war was 106 in 1978, 188 in 1979, 220 in 1980, 199 in 1981, 141 in 1982, 146 in 1983, 169 in 1984, 138 in 1985 and 119 last year.

Among the equipment seized from PLAN by the security forces betweeen 1985 and the first three months of this year were 1705 handgrenades, 1483 rifles, 3157 rifle grenades, 6505 mortar bombs, 858 B10 bombs, 1873 RPG7 rockets, 2469kg of explosives and 12 boats.

SWAPO Manpower Problems Noted

MB091702 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] A senior staff officer of the SWATF says only 13 percent of SWAPO terrorists can be deployed effectively against South-West Africa. At an information conference in Windhoek he said that 26 percent of the available fighters of SWAPO's military wing, PLAN [Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia], were being used in operations against UNITA in southern Angola. He said that few recruits were joining the organization, and that most of the terrorists being trained were children who had been abducted by SWAPO in the late 1970's.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Urges Envoys To Warn Against Aiding ANC

MB091643 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1641 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria, April 9, SAPA — In an urgent meeting with 35 foreign diplomatic representatives in Pretoria today, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, urged the West to warn Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique of the consequences of "colluding" with African National Congress plans to disrupt the May 6 House of Assembly general election with violence.

In a statement confirming the meeting afterwards, Mr Botha said he had informed the diplomats of the "seriousness of the situation" created by the ANC plan he revealed at an election rally in Uvongo, Natal, last night, and that "time was of the essence."

He emphasised the government's information about the ANC plan was reliable, and the only thing that mattered now was that the "evil design" be stopped.

Mr Botha also indicated the car bomb explosion in a suburb of Botswana's capital, Gaborone, early this morning had been a "mistake" on the part of the ANC, as the explosives were "probably" intended for targets in South Africa. Three people had been killed and four injured, and this was the end result if governments did not act firmly and convincingly against terrorists.

Mr Botha was accompanied at the meeting in the Union Buildings by Lt-Gen J. van Loggerenberg, of the South African Defence Force; the director-general of foreign affairs, Mr Niel van Heerden; and the head of the Departments Africa desk, Mr Glen Babb, former ambassador to Canada.

He said there could be no doubt about the information obtained as to the ANC plan "already going into effect with several groups of terrorists in the process of moving towards South Africa via Botswana, Zimbabwe and also Mozambique."

He warned "this evil design has created a grave situation and that time is of the essence."

Mr Botha said governmnts which had one-sidedly condemned South Africa in the past for previous retaliatory action "cannot now stand aside, as it is up to them to warn Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique against the consequences of colluding with terrorists in the promotion of violence."

The South African Government was "keeping all its options open, and will be guided by what it considers to be in the interests of the country."

Mr Botha said the West was well-informed about Africa, but by condemning the country for all the ills of the continent they had allowed its governments to "camouflage" their continuing social and economic depredations on the suffering masses of Africa "rather than to address the fundamental problems of development."

"Despite the knowledge Western countries had of the progressive deterioration of Africa's social and economic base, they picked on South Africa — one of the few countries in the continent which showed improvement on every level." This, Mr Botha said, automatically made some southern African governments think that support would come for the use of force — "an obvious cul de sac."

According to the statement Mr Botha illustrated what he had said by reading out a "report" on today's Gaborone explosion. "The incident, which regretably killed three civilians and wounded four others, was consistent with the pattern of ANC armed projects of the past. The bombs were probably intended for targets in South Africa had they not exploded prematurely."

Mr Botha concluded the meeting by appealing again through the diplomats present to urge their governments to "base themselves on the realities and the facts of Africa."

Responding to further media enquiries, Mr Botha emphasised his government's information on the ANC plan to disrupt the May 6 elections was reliable. "If the denials (from Zambia, and the ANC) result in the plan being nipped in the bud, it does not matter there are denials. What does matter is that the plan does not continue. The South African security forces are obviously on their guard," he added.

ANC Terms Botha Charges 'Insane'

MB101140 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1100 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] The ANC has condemned any participation by voters in next month's whites-only election and, as Peta Thornicroft in Harare reports, the ANC has also reacted to Pik Botha's claim that the organization plans to disrupt the election.

[Thornicroft] A spokesman at the ANC's headquarters in Lusaka said whites who voted in the general election would be participating in a sinful act and perpetrating an injustice against the majority of the people in South Africa. The ANC has also said the statements by Minister Pik Botha about large numbers of ANC guerrillas infiltrating from the Frontline States before the election were insane. They really are raving at present, said the spokesman.

U.S. Backpedaling on Sanctions Measures Noted

MB100536 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] This week the City Council of Philadelphia votes on the harshest sanctions yet imposed on South Africa by an American local authority. The action is the latest example of what is by far the most visible aspect of the sanctions controversy in American public institutions. Philadelphia is the most recent of numerous cities and 21 states that have taken disinvestment action in some form or another.

An aspect much less visible, but not, certainly, of less interest has been highlighted in a newspaper report referring to American cities that have begun to backpedal on the issue.

It notes that major cities have softened sanctions legislation when they themselves have had to pay a price for it. The trend has been under way for some time, its most dramatic manifestation being the decision by the American Congress, soon after passing its own sanctions legislation, to approve the unbanning of a long list of strategic minerals imported from South Africa.

The latest developments raise again the question of the motives of the sanctions campaigners in these elected bodies. The argument that punitive economic action would somehow assist the disadvantaged section of the South African population has by now been so thoroughly discredited that it is no longer heard. The evidence that it is those most vulnerable members of the workforce who suffer the detrimental effects of sanctions is too embarrassingly abundant for the original rationale to convince anyone these days.

Nevertheless, the need to adopt a moral stance — the only way in which an essentially immoral position may be justified — keep other rationalizations alive. The most popular is the claim that punitive action will change the policies of the South African Government.

That the claim has been disproved by recent history and is discounted by knowledgeable bodies in the American community — most recently the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce — is ignored.

The real motive is much more down to earth. In Philadelphia, in spite of evidence that the new legislation will harm the city — even the black mayor has expressed the fear that mass chaos and confusion will result — there is no doubt that it will be approved overwhelmingly.

And the reason, commentators point out, is that the largely black city will hold municipal elections next month. Since sanctions have emerged as an emotional political issue, few councillors are prepared at this stage to judge the legislation on its merits.

It was also shortly before elections that Congress passed its sanctions package in Washington last year. Equally, it is sensitivity to local voters' reactions that has led to the opposite trend: that of cities, states, and even Congress quietly abandoning some of their sanctions measures. The danger of alienating voters by sticking to measures for which a price had to be paid once again weighed more heavily than any moral considerations.

In the circumstances, there is little South Africa can do to influence the sanctions campaign. The only valid course for this country to follow is the continued implementation of its program of orderly political and socioeconomic reform in the interests of its own people.

Minister: Power Not To Be Shared Via Ballot Box

MB090503 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0023 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Vereeniging, April 8, SAPA — The government was prepared to share power with blacks at a leadership level but not by way of the ballot box, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said tonight.

Addressing a meeting of about 250 people in Vereeniging, he said black political rights could no longer be provided in the national states and representation would have to be granted at the highest level.

People should not fear the concept of sharing power with blacks because this did not imply sharing power with "your gardener or your housemaid." Powersharing would take place at leadership level and not by way of the ballot box.

He said the claims by the Conservative Party [CP] that once powersharing was implemented, whites would be overwhelmed by blacks by virtue of their numbers, was not true.

"There is no voting in the cabinet and numbers do not play a role."

He said he would have liked to tell people that there was no need to share power with blacks and that government would continue to find solutions by means of partition, but this policy had simply not worked.

It was inevitable that powersharing with blacks had to come about because blacks were determined to obtain their political rights.

The ability of blacks to negotiate should not be underestimated.

Although they were patient and knew that time was on their side, as sure as pressure builds up when a steam pot is closed, they would continue fighting for their rights.

He said the government and blacks had now agreed that the era of conflict and absence of their political rights had passed. Black leaders had been smuggled in and out of talks and the documentation had been classified secret.

They type of powersharing which had been negotiated at the Lancaster House talks had failed in Zimbabwe because not enough provision had been make for the protection of minorities.

Any negotiation in South Africa had to be done on the basis that minorities were adequately protected.

Referring to the CP's policy of partition he said the South African economy was irrevocably integrated and if blacks were to disappear overnight, the country would come to a standstill.

"It would not only mean that your coffee won't be served or the stoep [stoop] won't be cleaned in the morning. There will be no power, machinery and baking ovens will stop and the mines and railways will no longer work. How long do they think they can continue without blacks?"

He said that even if it was possible to implement the policy of "white by night" the CP should tell the public how much it would cost the country.

Suzman Says 40 MP's Considering Quitting NP

MB100815 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0800 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Helen Suzman says some 40 MP's are set to quit the National Party. The PFP [Progressive Federal Party] member for Houghton, speaking in Durban, said the dissatisfied New Nats [liberal National Party members] would consider crossing the floor if a moderate alliance could form a solid base. She commented wryly that she does not have access to the men's changerooms in Parliament, but that she had been told that there are at least 30 to 40 who would consider the move. She said if the

PFP can capture 40 to 45 seats in the election, the party would be what she termed a decided harassment to the government.

TV Coverage of National Party Increases

MB071031 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0900 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The National Party is still getting the bulk of the SABC's political coverage. The survey conducted by the Rhodes University journalism department found that the percentage of time given to the government during last week's news and network programs has risen from 14 to 33 percent. During the 3 week survey by the university, black opposition groups such as the UDF [United Democratic Front] and AZAPO [Azanian People's Organization] received no mention on SATV at all.

The survey found that sources quoted in news and network programs are those of acceptable groups as defined by the SABC and the goverment. The acceptable political spectrum runs from the HNP [Reconstructed National Party] and CP [Conservatice Party] on the right to the PFP [Progressive Federal Party] on the left; anything outside those limits is political extremism.

The political center is the National Party. The survey will continue until the election.

NEW NATION Features 'Update' Statistical Column

MB080855 Johannesburg NEW NATION in English
2-8 Apr 87 p 6

["Update"]

[Text] Five South African journalists are still in detention.

A total of R1,209,780 was paid out by the government last year in settlement for assaults and damages by police, according to Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok. A total of R7,745,918 had been paid out in settlement of 1,361 police assault and damages claims between 1969 and 1985.

The government paid out R196,723 last year following 79 cases of wrongful arrest by police.

The number of known deaths in detention in South Africa since 1963 has risen to 64 with the death of Evaton student leader Benedict Mosboke (20) at the Vereeniging police station.

South Africa has fallen from 29th place in 1984 to 57th place in March this year in the list of the world's most creditworthy nation, according to the *Institutional Investor*, a U.S. business magazine.

The volume of South African manufacturing production for 1986 was only 0.3 percent higher than that of 1985, according to the Central Statistical Services.

Supermarket prices of basic household necessities have jumped by an average of 13 percent since March last year, according to a recent newspaper survey.

Operation Hunger needs R14-million for the coming financial year. The agency is committed to feeding a million South Africans until May and has a waiting list of 30,000 in need.

Wage disputes were responsible for 43 percent of strikes in SA last year, according to FSA [expansion unknown] Management Consultants. Arrests and detentions of unionists accounted for 17 percent of last year's strikes.

South Africa has the world's highest youth suicide rate after the United States, according to Suicides Anonymous.

South Africa has a 2.3 percent population growth rate, says Department of Health and Population Development Minister Willie van Niekerk.

Fifty percent of white South Africans and 68 percent of foreign whites resident in South Africa favour integrated residential areas, according to a Rand Afrikaans University survey.

Some 45,000 people are violating the Group Areas Act, while only 1,221 complaints have been received, says Foreign Minister Pik Botha.

The Johannesburg City Council has estimated that of "white" Hillbrow's total population of 61,935, 9,000 are coloured people, 6,000 are Indians and 5,000 are blacks.

By 1985, SA had a surplus of 37,000 housing units for whites, while there was an official shortage of 44,000 for Indians, 52,000 for coloured people and 538,000 for blacks.

Police Begin Foot Patrols in Soweto Township

MB081510 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1457 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria April 8 SAPA — Police this week started doing foot patrol work in Soweto, ending an extended period of the township being policed mainly by armoured vehicles, residents said. Police ascribed the absence of patrolmen "on the beat" to a shortage of police officers. Law enforcers worldwide recognised the value of foot patrolmen to establish a rapport with the community.

Anti-Conscription Group Condemns 'Disinformation'

MB081905 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1845 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg April 8 SAPA — A spate of anti-End Conscription Campaign [ECC] publications, including one in defiance of a Media Council ruling, have been distributed in schools, universities and in the SADF over the last month. An ECC press release said today the most recent effort was a six page propaganda sheet entitled Veterans for Victory which had been distributed at schools and colleges in Johannesburg.

"It breaks the law by failing to disclose the name of the publisher and printer, and instead contains only a Houghton post box address to which readers are asked to send donations — in defiance of the Fund Raising Act," the ECC said. ECC believed the publication to be grossly inaccurate and distorted and to contain several defamatory statements, but its anonymity made legal action difficult to undertake.

"The ECC has information that this and other anti-ECC smear attempts are part of a national campaign launched at a top government level to attempt to discredit and undermine the ECC. This effort has been coordinated regionally at a joint management centre level," the release said.

The ECC said the following were among the disinformation initiatives of this nature: — The discredited Aida Parker newsletter of April 1986, which was devoted to an attack on ECC, has recently been distributed by the SADF at government schools throughout the country through the youth preparedness and cadet programmes. The SADF have publicly acknowledged that they have continued to distribute the newsletter despite the Media Council's unanimous finding that it breached the council's code of conduct.

— The Defence Force naval command in Durban has also distributed the Aida Parker newsletter to national servicemen doing their basic training.

— The Aida Parker newsletter has also been distributed at least one private school. At St Andrew's College in Grahamstown it was distributed through the school's cadet programme.

— The National Party-linked National Student Federation sent 1300 copies of the newsletter to school principals throughout the country.

— The Moderate Students Alliance, a National Students Federation affiliate, has distributed over 10,000 copies of its magazine *Standard* to Wits [University of Witwatersrand] students. The magazine contains statements on the ECC which are inaccurate and possibly defamatory.

— The SADF distributed thousands of copies of a pamphlet containing thinly disguised attacks on the ECC. For example, it calls all those who oppose conscription the "enemy" and accuses them of a "calculated attempt to undermine the defence capabilities."

— Several right wing groups, such as the Women for South Africa, as well as other anonymous groups and individuals, have also distributed anti-ECC propaganda recently.

"The End Conscription Campaign is a legal movement whose aim is to bring about a change in the law regarding compulsory military service. Nothing that ECC has done has breached any law in any way, and in fact, none of our members have been charged with any offence. We believe that because the government has failed to produce any evidence that ECC's activities and views are illegal, smear tactics are being resorted to. Many of these smears are anonymous in order to allow the publishers to avoid legal action against them.

"The ECC has taken legal action to protect itself from smears. In January 1986 *Rapport* newspaper allowed ECC to correct inaccuracies in a series of articles after being threatened with being taken to the Media Council. Later last year ECC scored a victory over the Aida Parker newsletter which the Media Council under Mr Justice Diemont found to contain numerous untrue and inaccurate statements about the ECC.

"Thousands of rand had been spent on the concerted anti-ECC drive raising the question of where the funds came from. Despite pricey publicity, only 50 people turned up at a meeting for National Security Forces Day. ECC believes these organisations to be little more than fronts for the government and the security forces and to be lacking in any discernible mass base," the statement said.

Exxon Subsidiary To Become New Company

MB091151 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1143 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 9, SAPA — America's largest oil company, Exxon's local subsidiary, Esso, is being converted into a new company, Zenex, which could become one of the country's biggest charitable organisations.

Up to R20,000 [as received] a year in profits is to be used to finance educational and social programmes for South Africa's underprivileged once the new company has paid Exxon an undisclosed purchase price.

Two Esso service stations have already been given the new Zenex name, and others will change over the next three months.

The moves follow the disinvestment decision by Exxon, which announced its withdrawal from South Africa in December last year.

The announcement was made today by Zenex Oil (Pty) Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Mr John Truscott, who said his company had taken over the interests of Esso SA, including 160 retail service stations and bulk fuel distribution networks.

"Exxon sold the South African companies to a trust which provides for the continuation and expansion of local operations and employment," said Mr Truscott. "Once Exxon has been paid, all profits will be invested in projects of an educational or social nature for the communal benefit of our country.

"Based on past performance, these are likely to amount to R10 million to R20 million each year. All our employees will immediately participate in a profit-sharing scheme as well," he said.

The new company was not a signatory to the Sullivan Code but, Mr Truscott said, Zenex had no intention of abandoning Essos' current social responsibility programmes.

"Our programmes will be retained and some will be expanded. We will continue to pay and promote on merit, regardless of sex, race or religion."

Last year Exxon achieved worldwide sales of 69.9 billion U.S. dollars (about R139 billion) and is currently the second-largest publicly traded U.S. company, after General Motors.

Announcing the decision to withdraw last year, Exxon chief executive Mr Lawrence Rawl said: "The deterioration of the South African economic and business climate caused by the continuing internal and external constraints has affected our business and our potential for growth."

Information Bureau Issues 9 April Unrest Report

MB100917 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0913 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria, April 10, SAPA — The Bureau for Information's unrest report for the period 0001 to 2400 April 9:

"About 200 black pupils gathered at the Maeli shool in Sharpeville (Vereeniging) yesterday with the aim of assaulting a teacher. The police arrived and requested the pupils to disperse. They refused and started stoning the police. The police dispersed the group with birdshot. No injuries or arrests were reported.

"In Sebokeng (Vanderbijlpark) a group of about 10 youths set fire to a private vehicle after the owner had refused to give them money. Serious damage was caused to the vehicle. No injuries or arrests were reported.

"A group of about 50 black persons threw stones at a security force member doing guard-duty in Katlehong (Germiston) yesterday. The member warded off the attack by firing of the group with his shotgun. A 22-year-old man was killed and a 20-year-old man, wounded. No arrests were made.

"Other unrest-related incidents reported during the above mentioned period comprised insolated incidents of stoning and arson. Damage was reported as minimal except for a private home which was set alight in Sobantu village near Pietermaritzburg, where damage was reported as extensive. No injuries or arrests were reported."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB100625 [Editorial report]

CITIZEN on Foreign Funding of Slabbert, Boraine

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 9 April says: "The disclosure that Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, the former Progressive Federal Party leader, and Dr Alex Boraine, the party's former Federal Council chairman, are receiving huge funding from overseas must have come as a shock to those South Africans who, like us, oppose the interference of overseas countries, organisations and companies in our internal affairs." The paper believes that Slabbert and Boraine are "not running a pure research institute." "Even if the institute's purpose was simply to get rid of apartheid, no foreign governments, companies and organisations should be allowed to become directly involved in our domestic issues by financially backing the institute."

STAR on NP, ANC

"The African National Congress and the South African National Party appear, wittingly or unwittingly, to be combining in a mutually beneficial battle," notes a page 18 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 9 April. "If it is true that hordes of armed 'liberation fighters' or 'terrorists' are being unleashed on our country from places like Lusaka, Harare and even closer capitals — and surely our foreign minister would not rely entirely on bluster in making such accusations — then the ANC must be trying to strengthen local white support for the NP. No other conclusion is possible. On the other hand, the NP is making such a meal of every morsel of information about ANC terrorism, that it seems bent on exaggerating the strength of the ANC to a dangerous degree. It is time every politician, black or white, who claims to abjure violence for violence's sake, lowers his voice, and his arms. It is time that every moderate inside and outside our borders actively condemns armed aggression; condemns all those who raise the temperature through terrorism or political posturing."

CP Likely To Become Official Opposition

"Despite its failure to achieve an electoral alliance with the HNP [Reconstructed National Party], the Conservative Party has a good chance of emerging from the election with more seats than the PFP and becoming the official Opposition," writes Martin Spring in the "My View" column on the same page. "The CP enters this fray at a disadvantage, having shown by its failure to achieve an electoral alliance that it lacks the leadership and negotiating skills that are essential in government. Nevertheless there is an advantage to the CP in all this, as it can present itself as the moderate party of the right and its cousins, the HNP and the AWB, as extremist." "The reason why the CP, despite its poor leadership and lack of image as an alternative government, is much more of a political danger to the government than the highly publicised forces to its left, is that its support is more truly national in character being spread across more constituencies, while support for the left is concentrated in a handful of wealthy and relatively wealthy constituencies."

CAPE TIMES: Government Suppresses Economic News

"Not surprisingly, we believe, the Association of Chambers of Commerce [Assocom] has come to the conclusion that one of the factors prompting foreign firms to leave South Africa is our censorship regulations," says a page 10 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 8 April. "Assocom says in a recent review that companies are being 'assailed by conflicting rumours which undermined confidence at a time when the economy was suffering a prolonged recession' and notes that managements do not know what is really happening here." "We have cabinet ministers urging voters not to associate the government with our known economic woes, as if these would be with us regardless. Upturns in the business cycle do, of course, come and go and often they are a consequence of external factors but they also respond directly to government policy. In any event government appears only too willing to take credit for good news on the financial front. In our book that can't be reconciled with trying to suppress the bad tidings."

CAPE TIMES: Former Editor on Government Pressure

On page 10 of *Cape Times* Anthony Johnson comments in the "Midweek Politics" column on former editor of *Rapport* Wimpie de Klerk's address to the Cape Town Press Club saying De Klerk provides "some telling insights into how the National Party bosses are systematically undermining one of its principle vehicles for engineering consent in white South African society — the Afrikaans press establishment. Dr De Klerk argued that one of the most important consequences of the government's determination to 'reduce Afrikaans political journalism to a propaganda institution' was that the 'friendly media' were having their credibility destroyed." "The picture that emerges from this prominent NP insider is one of an isolated and scared government which is increasingly coming to view broadly sympathetic intellectuals and newspapers as a threat rather than an asset." "Also instructive was the inventory of government pressures Dr De Klerk revealed had been part and parcel of his personal experience in trying to edit *Rapport* as a newspaper of 'very slight independence'. These included: 'general resistance' in parliamentary circles which was communicated to him concerning 'political stupidity, danger to the state, undermining the future of South Africa' and the like. There was also 'direct contact' in which dissatisfaction — including threats — was expressed, 'sometimes every Sunday or Monday'. The 'red carpet treatment' (an apparent reference to President P.W. Botha) which he regarded as especially belittling 'particularly if one can't have a logical discussion'. Letters in the 'sharpest possible language'. Directors who were made sensitive to the 'failed' role played by *Rapport* in politics."

SADF Performing Police Function

A page 10 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 7 April says the most serious threat to this country's military tradition of noninvolvement in politics derives from the "decision to send troops into the townships, using the SADF to perform an essentially police rather than military function in quelling civil disturbance." "To rely on the army in such circumstances is to foster a situation of incipient civil war. Deployment of the army to restore order in a grave but temporary emergency situation is one thing. The use of the army for policing duties over months stretching into years of a semi-permanent 'state of emergency' is another thing entirely. The deployment of citizen-soldiers against their fellow citizens in this way is unacceptable in all but the most extreme situations. Sending white troops into the black townships places the army in the role of an instrument of political repression rather than national defence."

SOWETAN on Strikes

"It is exactly 27 days since the strike by railway workers started. Add the 6,000 post office workers to the railways workers and you get about 20,000 state employees now on strike," notes Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English in its page 6 editorial. "The strikes and the response of managements are a symptom of the sickness that is eating into our society. There is almost an insane reluctance by those in power to tackle problems and find happy solutions; they trip over their own feet trying to find excuses for not doing the right thing. Obviously workers do not go on strike because of some aberration. They have reasons. The logical thing is for managements to listen to the unions the workers have chosen to represent them and tackle the grievances."

NEW NATION on Editor Detention

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *New Nation* in English 9-15 April notes the following: "Zwelakhe Sisulu, editor of this newspaper, has now been detained without trial for 119 days — roughly four months — under the emergency regulations. His plight, and that of fellow-detainees UDF [United Democratic Front] patron Smangaliso Mkhatshwa, Federation of Transvaal Women official Sister Bernard Ncube and Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee Chairman Tom Waspe, was highlighted at the recent annual general meeting of the West German-based Catholic Initiatives for Southern Africa."

COSATU-SAYCO Alliance

An unsigned commentary on page 7 says the role of the South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) has become even more crucial now that students workers and township residents are grouped together under the banner of the SA Youth Congress." "SAYCO has taken the lessons of its predecessors very seriously: Three of its key aims are: to promote and deepen the outlook of the most progressive class, the working class. To mobilise and organise unemployed youth. To encourage the working youth to join progressive trade unions." "It is currently working out guidelines for a working relationship with the Congress of South African Trade Unions." "It is an alliance which is long overdue and which must be consolidated."

SAYCO To Guard Youth From Pro-apartheid Forces

"As a key element in the liberation struggle, the youth is a prime target for co-option and indoctrination," says an unsigned commentary on page 7 of *New Nation*. "The state, homeland leaders and right-wing vigilante groups have all set themselves the task of breaking the power of progressive youth organisations. The Inkatha Youth Brigade, formed in 1977, is the best example. It claims to be South Africa's largest and most powerful youth organisation, with 500,000 card-carrying members." "Brigade members have often been linked to vigilante violence against members of progressive organisations." "Unemployed youth are particularly vulnerable to the blandishments of proapartheid forces. They have been singled out as the storm troops of vigilante gangs." "SAYCO believes it has a vital role to play in countering this struggle for control of young township minds."

BURGER on Dual CP, AWB Membership

A page 8 editorial in Cape Town *Die Burger* in Afrikaans on 8 April says that "the AWB's role in the politics of the far right is growing. The CP candidate in the Belville constituency is also the AWB leader of the western Cape, and he says it has been approved by CP leader Andries Treurnicht." But, "dual membership does not seem to bother Treurnicht since he views the AWB as a 'cultural organization'." "The question which should concern Treurnicht is whether those on the far right have not already accepted Terreblanche as their real leader."

CP Ignores Responsibilities

A page 20 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 9 April comments on CP leader Andries Treurnicht's refusal to discuss the CP-HNP alliance, saying "you close your eyes and the problem vanishes." The editorial says the CP "overlooks a principle or two." It points out that the other leaders of the country do not do the same. "The NP for example, allows open discussion on any issue. The NP tackles the burning issues under a blinding light of criticism, instead of ignoring its responsibilities."

ZAMBIA

ANC Plan to Disrupt RSA Elections Denied

MB091208 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Zambia has denied a statement by racist South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha that heavily armed freedom fighters of the African National Congress have assembled in Lusaka and are heading for South Africa to disrupt next month's whites-only elections.

The minister of foreign affairs, Luke Mwananshiku, said Zambia has noted with dismay and disbelief the statement made by Pik Botha last night at an election campaign in Natal Province.

Comrade Mwananshiku said there are no training camps in Zambia for ANC freedom fighters and there is no force that is heading for South Africa (?from Zambia) [words indistinct]. The racist foreign minister claimed that freedom fighters who have assembled in Lusaka are on the way to South Africa through neighboring countries to disrupt next month's whites-only elections and that his government would take whatever action was necesary to stop them. [passage omitted]

Government Not To Increase Retail Price of Corn

MB090816 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] The Zambian Government has announced that it does not plan to increase the price of retail maize, following last week's producer price increases. A member of the Central Committee of the ruling United National Independence Party, Mr Reuben Kamanga, said in an interview in Lusaka that the government increased the producer price to keep up with the cost of inputs such as fertilizer.

Mr Kamanga, who is also chairman of the rural development subcommittee, said the retail price was another matter, although he did not rule out future consumer price hikes, which in the past have been linked to producer price increases.

In December last year a 120 percent increase in the consumer price for refined maize, Zambia's staple food, let to food riots in which 15 people died. The price increase was later revoked by President Kenneth Kaunda. Observers in Lusaka say if producer price increases are not accompanied by a retail price hike, the Zambian Government will then have to spend more money on subsidies, a practice discouraged by the International Monetary Fund.

Post, Telecommunications Workers End Strike

MB090800 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Zambian posts and telecommunications workers have ended a 2-day strike after management offered to pay a daily transport allowance. A statement by the state-owned Posts and Telecommunications Corporation said that after discussions with the workers the corporation had agreed to pay the allowance, backdated to November last year. The workers had demanded free transport.

The statement made no mention of the 3,000 workers' separate demand for salary increases. Postal workers on the northern copperbelt also went back to work after the new agreement was announced. The strike, which was the fourth by public sector workers in Zambia in less than a month, had brought work at post offices to a standstill, and senior staff had had to step in to maintain a partial telephone and telex service. The other strikes were by nurses and junior doctors, teachers, and airline personnel.

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